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NAM Conference Issues Communique, Concludes

Final Document Issued

NC0306160094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1030 GMT 3 Jun 94

[Text] Cairo, 3 Jun (MENA)—The 11th conference of the Nonaligned Movement's [NAM] foreign ministers concluded its sessions in Cairo today and issued a final document that included NAM's stand on political and economic developments and changes in the international situation.

The document included NAM's stand on issues of disarmament, international security and economic cooperation, the environment, development, South-South cooperation, human rights, social developments, regional issues, resolving conflicts, and UN reform.

The document stressed that the international situation remains "extremely fluid," shrouded in confusion, and characterized by a growing tendency toward focusing primarily on the interests and concerns of a limited number of advanced countries.

The NAM foreign ministers called in their final document for defining new priorities in the world order and for paying more attention to the principal development requirements and the need for reconciling the new criteria created in international relations to the cultural characters of developing countries.

The ministers stressed that the continuation of the problems connected with poverty, unemployment, developmental backwardness, illiteracy, environmental deterioration, terrorism, and the drug trade will result in political and social tensions and this in turn will negatively affect international peace and security.

The final document stressed the need for the contribution of the regional economic groupings to the achievement of the free flow of trade, investments, and technology across international borders and integrated commercial blocs. They expressed hope that these groupings will help establish and strengthen an open and energetic international trade order.

The ministers underlined the importance of the contacts that NAM has with all the advanced industrialized countries in order to expand the North-South dialogue while simultaneously strengthening South-South cooperation.

Regarding regional conflicts, the NAM foreign ministers stressed the need to strengthen the existing international mechanisms for resolving conflicts that have remained without a solution so far. The final document noted that the NAM Coordination Bureau [words indistinct]. It underlined the need to unify efforts for the sake of upholding tolerance as a solid concept in conducting international relations and as an indispensable factor in international behavior, in addition to being a principal concept in the UN Charter.

The document reaffirmed the importance of not marginalizing the role of countries that are continuing their endeavors to play a principal role in international affairs. It noted the need for the international organizations to effect fundamental changes in their structures so that they can react to the arising challenges that are imposed by the new international state of affairs. The NAM foreign ministers decided to boost their efforts to attain this objective.

The final document said the NAM foreign ministers discussed during their conference the role of their movement in light of changes that have recently taken place on international relations.

They confirmed once again the importance of enabling the continued operation of the movement and its follow-up of new international circumstances.

The final document clarified the concept of nonalignment which has embodied the hopes of mankind for comprehensive disarmament and the right to self-determination; guaranteed human rights, man's basic freedoms, and economic development; established an international economic system; and developed human resources and coexistence among the various regimes, cultures, and societies.

The document said that this is why the ministers decided to continue making efforts to give NAM greater effectiveness.

In this regard, the ministers welcomed the increase in the number of members in the Movement. They believe that this indicates there is continued interest in the role of NAM.

They affirmed that NAM should adopt a program that would enable it to absorb the wide-ranging interests of its members and the amendments that need to be introduced into the structure and methods of the movement.

The ministers recommended that relations between NAM and the Group of 77 should be strengthened. The developing countries' stands should also be advanced as a whole with the objective of bolstering their negotiations' strength with the progressive industrial states.

The ministers affirmed once again their firm belief that the United Nations is the most appropriate international authority for preserving international peace and security and for cooperation for development purposes. They praised the role of the team working on reorganizing and reforming the United Nations which was formed by the Jakarta summit. They stressed that the process of reforming the United Nations should take into consideration the important changes in international relations and should re-activate the role and duties of the General Assembly.

The ministers see a need for discussing the process of reforming the UN Security Council, modifying its structure, and increasing its members on democratic and

geographic basis. NAM representation among the permanent members of the Security Council should be increased.

The ministers once again affirmed the need to conduct the Security Council's decision-making process more openly. In order to realize this objective, they urged the Security Council to convene a larger number of official and open sessions when discussing any issue and before making any decision. This would allow greater participation on the largest scale possible.

The ministers urged the Security Council to establish a basic system for regular and direct consultations with those countries contributing forces [to the United Nations] during the decision-making process with respect to setting up and administering the peacekeeping process. The ministers called for taking the appropriate measures that allow the non-members who are interested in participating in any mechanism, such as any special sub-committee the Council might form, to participate.

Affirming the importance of the UN peacekeeping operations, the ministers called on NAM to participate in drawing up guiding principles for the peacekeeping operations that would conform to the UN Charter and enable the United Nations to contribute more effectively toward consolidating world peace and security. The ministers demanded that all peacekeeping operations adhere to the principles of the UN Charter, have a non-interventionist character, and be negotiated at the request of the concerned member states.

The ministers affirmed the need for the peacekeeping operations to be non-discriminatory in character. They also demanded that complete openness and constant consultations be a main factor in the formation of the peacekeeping operations, which must have a clear mandate, a specific time frame, and guaranteed financing. Resolutions on the formation of these operations must include clauses pertaining to the safety of personnel. The ministers demanded equal opportunity to facilitate the widest possible participation of the member states, particularly the developing states, in the peacekeeping operations.

Regarding NAM's position on decolonization, the ministers reaffirmed the right of peoples in regions that do not enjoy autonomy to self-determination and independence, in accordance with UN General Assembly Resolution 1514 of 14 September 1961. They affirmed their absolute support for the work of the UN Decolonization Committee and its effective contribution to the implementation of the declaration on granting independence to colonized states and peoples.

Regarding disarmament and world security, the ministers reaffirmed the stand adopted by NAM in the final document of the Jakarta summit. They expressed the belief that total disarmament under effective international supervision remains a noble goal which must be achieved. They called for clearing the world of nuclear weapons and urged the disarmament conference to give priority to negotiations on an international agreement banning the use of nuclear weapons or the threat to use them. They urged the disarmament conference to work to conclude a comprehensive international treaty banning nuclear tests. They called on states that possess nuclear weapons to stop all experimental detonation of nuclear weapons until this treaty is concluded.

The ministers stressed that the creation of nuclear-free zones is a first necessary step to achieve the goal of eliminating the weapons of mass destruction. They welcomed UN General Assembly Resolution 48/71, adopted without a vote and dated 16 December 1993, calling for the creation of a nuclear-free zone in the Middle East. This ideas was first proposed by Egypt and Iran. The ministers praised and called for the implementation of President Husni Mubarak's initiative declaring the Middle East a zone free of weapons of mass destruction. They expressed the belief that the removal of nuclear weapons from the region will lead to the removal of weapons of mass destruction. They urged Israel to get rid of its nuclear weapons, to join the nuclear nonproliferation treaty, and to subject all its nuclear installations to the comprehensive safeguards of the International Atomic Energy Agency. The ministers welcomed the progress made in drafting a treaty or agreement declaring Africa a nuclear-free zone. They also welcomed Mongolia's 1992 declaration making its territory free of nuclear weapons.

On NAM's position on international economic cooperation, the ministers expressed the belief that it is necessary to adequately treat the usual problems of the world economy. The nonaligned states and other developing countries must contribute toward the formation of a new world economic order. They noted the low growth rate in the developing countries, the debt burdens, and the low prices of basic commodities.

The ministers stressed the need for coordination between the Caracas working program of the Group of 77 and NAM's working program for economic cooperation. A joint coordinating committee must consolidate relations between the two groups.

The ministers affirmed the importance of South-South cooperation as a basic factor in the efforts to reorganize international relations and as a vital tool to expedite development in the developing states. They asked the ministerial economic cooperation committee to give priority to discussing this issue and to submit its recommendations in this regard to NAM's 11th Summit Conference, which will discuss these recommendations and issue the appropriate resolutions.

The ministers called on the nonaligned countries and other developing countries to intensify and strengthen current efforts for South-South cooperation, to use new tangible forms and priorities for cooperation, and to adopt practical methods to implement this cooperation.

Concerning the GATT, the ministers stressed that developing nations should be accorded the benefits spelled out

by preferential agreements and that they must be given appropriate financial and technological aid to be able to diversify their exports and compensate the direct losses they will suffer as a result of the liberalization of world trade.

The ministers announced that the agreements, rules, and new structures agreed on during GATT's Uruguay meeting must yield greater opportunities to the countries of the world, particularly developing countries, to reach new markets, expand world trade, raise incomes, and provide more jobs.

The ministers voiced concern about certain parties' tendency to circumvent the multinational structures for liberalizing trade which were agreed on during GATT's Uruguay meeting. They said this is done by exploiting environmental and social issues as pretexts for new forms of protectionism.

The ministers urged the developed countries to limit their coercive and unilateral economic measures against developing countries for political purposes. They also asked them not to impose political conditions on international cooperation. They called on the world community to adopt firm and effective measures to end such practices.

The ministers underlined their belief in facilitating and encouraging private sector business activities in view of the private sector's major role in promoting cooperation among the countries of the South. They expressed satisfaction at the implementation of the constituent treaty of the African economic group, seeing it as a step toward greater South-South cooperation.

The ministers again asserted that the international trade preferential system is an important method of strengthening and expanding trade among developing countries and urged the countries that have not yet signed this agreement to do so.

The ministers emphasized the United Nations' major role in promoting international cooperation for the sake of economic and social development. They welcomed the UN General Assembly's resolution calling for renewed dialogue among the world's nations to encourage development through partnership. They said that this dialogue is important for mutual interests and benefit.

The ministers called for canceling or at least reducing debts stemming from the developing countries' official debts and urged the prompt adoption of measures on the issue of the commercial debts that these countries owe. They urged multinational financial institutions to continue their current backing for the reduction of debts and the costs of servicing them and called for solutions to this problem that would help the economic development of countries that are facing tremendous difficulties in servicing their debt.

They called on creditor countries, private banks, and multinational financial institutions to extend new and suitable financial aid to developing debtor countries, particularly those with low or medium revenues that are burdened with debt.

The ministers urged holding a new international conference to finance development projects and expressed their worry about the low levels of financing offered for the economic development of poor countries. They called on the developed nations to allot 0.7 percent of their gross national product for this type of financing.

The ministers stressed the importance of linkage between trade and currency issues and the need to improve the trade environment so that the developing nations can carry out their development plans.

They welcomed the Moroccan king's proposal to establish a high-level inter-governmental team to study new mechanisms for international economic negotiations and to promote greater cooperation with the IMF, the World Bank, and the World Trade Organization.

The ministers called on the United Nations to assume a major role in backing the developing nations' efforts to build up scientific and technological capabilities and said more opportunities must be given for them to acquire new technology with favorable conditions. They demanded that developed, industrial nations stop resorting to the restrictions they now use to limit the export of technology to developing countries.

The ministers welcomed the expanded cooperation program, adopted by the Nonaligned Movement's presidency, which will help organize a UN conference on human settlements in Turkey in 1996.

The ministers voiced grave concern over the continuing deterioration in global food and agricultural supplies, particularly in the developing world. They emphasized the Nonaligned Movement's advocacy of a prompt and concerted effort to solve the problem of hunger in the world. In this connection they welcomed the formation of an advisory team of experts on food security and approved the recommendations that this team made during its meeting in Jakarta in January 1994.

The ministers stressed the need to attach special attention to the critical economic conditions in Africa and voiced grave concern about the fact that numerous agreements on ways of handling this issue that were agreed upon at several international forums were not implemented.

The ministers voiced satisfaction with the immense progress made by some developing Asian and Pacific economies and the existing cooperation between those countries and other regional partners.

Concerning the Nonaligned Movement's stance on the environment and development problems, the ministers called for intense efforts to preserve the environment and reiterated their adherence to a balanced, integrated

approach to development such as that which appeared in the Rio Declaration on the environment and development. They also stressed that states have a sovereign right to utilize their intrinsic resources according to their environmental and developmental policies and that these states should take care that their activities do not harm the environment of other countries or areas beyond their national jurisdiction.

The ministers expressed the hope that commitments to implementing the 21st century agenda concerning new and supplementary financial resources and technology transfer easily, as indicated by the Rio Declaration, will be honored.

The ministers also expressed the belief that the developing countries' financial and technological resources should be commensurate with their actual requirements.

The ministers emphasized the importance of the current negotiations to devise an international agreement to combat desertification, especially in Africa, and reiterated the G-77's stand on the need to set up a fund to implement the agreement.

The ministers approved the resolution adopted at the second conference of the Basel Accord, under which any cross-border transportation of toxic waste undertaken to get rid of such waste by the countries of the cooperation and economic development organization by dumping it in other countries that are not member states of that organization should be banned by 1997. They also stressed the importance of devising new charters [word indistinct] to preserve and run fish stocks in overlapping areas and stocks of fish on the high seas.

The ministers noted that the developing countries' lack of adequate basic structures to prevent disasters and minimize their effects and the lack of relief structures made them the countries most affected by these disasters and they recommended that the nonaligned countries intensify cooperation in this field.

The ministers reaffirmed the importance of the UN Maritime Law Agreement to the [word indistinct] of the member states and stressed the need to ratify the agreement worldwide.

The ministers renewed their countries' commitment to their pledges to consolidate world respect, care, and protection of all human rights and everyone's basic freedoms according to the UN Charter. They emphasized that democracy provides an open system to protect and enhance human rights and expressed their deep concern about random massacres perpetrated in areas of armed conflict.

As regards human rights, the ministers reaffirmed that, although human rights are of a universal nature, they should be viewed by considering the importance of various national and regional characteristics and historical, cultural, and religious backgrounds.

The ministers reiterated that all forms of racism, social discrimination, new forms of racism, and hatred of foreigners constitute a grave violation of human rights and should be combated with all means. They expressed their profound concern over the emergence of stringent immigration policies in many developed countries imposing firm restrictions on people's movement and leading to hatred of foreigners.

The ministers affirmed that the right to development is universal and that the international community should support collective cooperation the achievement of which requires devising new, suitable development policies.

The ministers emphasized that terrorism is a violation of human rights and openly condemned all forms of terrorism. They stressed that sponsoring terrorism, allowing the use of a particular country for planning, organizing, provoking, or committing terrorist acts against other countries is a breach of the principles of the UN Charter. They urged the international community to enhance cooperation in combating the danger of terrorism anywhere, no matter who perpetrates such an act or who is subjected to it at national, regional, and world levels.

The ministers discussed the status of human rights in the provinces of the former Yugoslavia and stated that ethnic cleansing was the direct cause of the bulk of the grave and organized violations of human rights and that their primary victims are the Muslims who are threatened with near-annihilation. They urged all countries to adopt immediate measures to combat this odious practice and expressed concern at the continued violation of Muslims' human rights in Sanjaq and Kosovo.

As regards social development, the ministers reiterated that structural adjustment programs and foreign debts should not be allowed to have a negative effect on human development programs. They also affirmed the Nonaligned Movement's commitment to enhancing international cooperation in social development and stressed the need for national efforts and international cooperation to give priority to eliminating poverty, increasing productive labor, creating a suitable international social and economic climate to overcome the obstacles blocking economic and social development.

The ministers renewed the Movement's support for holding the fourth women's labor conference for equality, development, and peace, due to be held in Beijing in 1995. They decided to coordinate their efforts to devise a working program to expedite the removal of impediments blocking women's full participation in various fields.

The ministers reiterated that child rights require more protection and improvement. They called for consolidated efforts to improve conditions for children all over the world and expressed concern at critical conditions for children in many parts of the world as a result of improper social and economic circumstances, natural

disasters, armed disputes, illiteracy, hunger, and disability. They condemned the exploitation of children in armed disputes and called on all NAM governments that have not as yet ratified the child rights agreement to do so as soon as possible.

The ministers suggested that member governments allocate 20 percent of their budgets to human development, particularly to children, and called for urgent measures to prevent the exploitation of children in prostitution and the distribution of pornography, as well as the illicit trade in children, all of which are poisons that affect children, particularly in developing states.

The ministers noted that the heads of states and governments addressed an appeal during the Jakarta summit to all competent UN agencies to intensify efforts to work out a practical plan to develop youth. They called for setting a date to hold the UN General Assembly meeting on youth issues in 1995.

The foreign ministers voiced their deep concern at the risks involved in the abuse of and trade in drugs and at the mental influence of drugs that still undermines society's ethical and physical aspects and the life and future of new generations, particularly in view of the growing demand for drugs in developing countries. They drew attention to the growing links between drug traffickers and terrorists, which left a negative impact on peace and stability in different corners of the world. They called for coordinated and exhaustive international action that addresses the various aspects of the problem, including efforts to curb poverty and increase development aid to developing states to allow their inhabitants, particularly farmers and their families, to break free from the circle of drug dealing.

The NAM foreign ministers reiterated support for the principles of national sovereignty and noninterference in the internal affairs of other states. They noted that the issue of drug trafficking should not be turned into an instrument for the pursuit of political goals. They appealed to nonaligned and developing states to enhance cooperation in fighting drugs.

Touching on general political issues, the foreign ministers reiterated their support for the peace process that started with the Madrid conference to achieve a just, lasting, and all-embracing peace in the Middle East on the basis of UN Resolutions 242 and 338 and the land-for-peace principle. They recognized the significance of the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles signed on 13 September and the agreement signed in Cairo on 4 May, which represents a first step toward implementing that declaration. They also recognized the importance of the Jordanian-Israeli joint agenda, hoping to see urgent progress along the other tracks through Israel's compliance with the basic prerequisites of peace in the Middle East.

The NAM ministers reiterated that comprehensive peace in the Middle East must result in Israel's full withdrawal from all the Palestinian territories, including Jerusalem, from the Syrian Golan, from the Jordan territories occupied since 1967, and from the occupied Lebanese territories. They stressed that this peace should also result in endorsing the lawful national rights of the Palestinian people, primarily their right to self-determination on their national soil; providing guarantees for peace for all regional states within safe and internationally-recognized borders; and solving the problems of Palestinian refugees and Israeli settlements. The Iranian delegation objected to these two paragraphs.

Referring to UN Security Council Resolution 252, which calls on Israel to revoke all the measures that changed the legal status of the city of Jerusalem, the ministers reiterated that all the legislative and administrative measures Israel adopted as an occupation authority, particularly announcing Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, are null and void. They affirmed that the issue of Jerusalem cannot be resolved by unilateral measures.

The foreign ministers reiterated that the Israeli settlements in the Palestinian and other Arab territories occupied since 1967 are illegal, constitute a hurdle on the road to peace, and should be dismantled.

They once again emphasized the need to take sufficient measures to guarantee peace and protection for the Palestinians in the occupied territories. They called on Israel to take measures to facilitate the return of Palestinians deported since 1967, to speed up the release of detained Palestinians, and to respect the basic freedoms of the Palestinian people. They stressed that all the measures Israel took to change the features and legal status of Syria's occupied Golan Heights are null and void and constitute a blatant violation of international law.

The ministers praised the recent positive developments in Lebanon represented by the continuing progress in the process of national reconciliation. They called for respect for Lebanon's independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity. They condemned the continuing Israeli occupation of parts of southern Lebanon and western al-Biqa' Valley. They affirmed the need for the reconstruction of Lebanon.

The ministers reviewed the situation between Iraq and Kuwait and stressed that all NAM member states are committed to respect the sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity of both Kuwait and Iraq. They also emphasized that the full implementation of all the relevant UN Security Council resolutions constitutes the means of establishing peace, security, and stability in the region. They urged Iraq to confirm its recognition, clearly and unequivocally, of Kuwait's sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity, and demarcated international borders by accepting Resolution 833, in order to create a positive climate, leading to security and stability in the region.

The ministers urged Iraq to complete the implementation of the relevant UN Security Council resolutions on

the release of Kuwaiti detainees and the settlement of the issue of missing persons. The Iraqi delegation objected to this paragraph.

The ministers noticed the progress in the ongoing contacts between Iraq on the one hand and the Special Committee and the IAEA on the other with a view to implementing Paragraph C of Security Council Resolution 687. The ministers called for an end to human suffering in accordance with the relevant Security Council resolutions. The Iraqi delegation demanded that the words "of the Iraqi people" be entered after the words "human suffering."

Regarding Yemen, the ministers expressed their support for the ongoing efforts to solve the conflict through peaceful means, establish peace and stability, and resume the dialogue among the Yemeni parties, particularly Security Council Resolution 924/1994, including an immediate cessation of fighting, an end to supplies of arms and other military hardware which could contribute to continued fighting, and the dispatch of a fact-finding mission to the area, as soon as possible, to help resume the dialogue among the Yemeni parties.

The ministers affirmed that political differences cannot be settled by the use of arms. They urged all Yemeni parties to return immediately to the negotiating table so as to allow a peaceful resolution of their disputes, the restoration of peace and stability, and the safeguarding of the interests of the Yemeni people. This will positively contribute to maintaining peace in the whole region. The Yemeni delegation objected to this paragraph's nonmention of Yemeni unity.

Regarding Libya, the ministers welcomed Libya's acceptance of Security Council Resolution 731. They reaffirmed their hope that the concerned parties will find a peaceful and just settlement that will secure the interests and rights of all parties in accordance with international law and the principles of the UN Charter. They expressed their concern over the negative consequences of the continuation of the crisis on the Libyan people, the neighboring countries, and the whole region.

The ministers urged the parties concerned to refrain from any action that would result in escalation and to settle the crisis in a peaceful and speedy manner in accordance with Chapter 6 of the UN Charter. They welcomed Arab League Resolution 5373 issued on 27 March 1994 and urged the Security Council to take into consideration the new proposal this resolution contains with a view to finding a peaceful and fair solution.

Regarding African issues, the ministers welcomed the OAU's establishment of a mechanism for the prevention, management, and resolution of conflicts in accordance with a resolution issued by the conference of the African heads of state and government held in Cairo in June 1993. They expressed the hope that the establishment of this pioneer mechanism would bring a new institutional dynamism to deal with conflicts in Africa.

The ministers welcomed South Africa's membership in the OAU and NAM. They wished the new republic a successful and prosperous future. They paid special tribute to President Nelson Mandela as a leader of stature commanding the respect of the international community and the confidence of the people of South Africa. They welcomed the UN Security Council resolution lifting the economic sanctions against South Africa.

The ministers welcomed the Addis Ababa agreement signed by all Somali factions on 27 March 1993. They praised the efforts of President Husni Mubarak in his capacity as OAU chairman and the efforts of Ethiopian President Meles Zenawi on behalf of the OAU to achieve national reconciliation in Somalia. The ministers agreed to explore the possibility of holding an international conference on Somalia. They urged the international community to adopt an effective and large-scale program for reconstruction and development in Somalia.

The ministers voiced extreme concern over the tragic conditions facing the Angolan people as a consequence of UNITA's [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] refusal to accept the results of the September 1992 elections and its resumption of military actions, causing grievous loss of life and property damage. The ministers urged UNITA to accept unconditionally the results of the country's democratic elections and to negotiate with the government in good faith so that the current negotiations in Lusaka would produce an agreement capable of maintaining a lasting peace in Angola. They appealed to the world community to send prompt humanitarian aid to the residents of Angolan areas that have suffered war damage.

Regarding the Rwandan crisis, the ministers expressed profound regret over the tragic events there which have displaced or killed hundreds of thousands of people and created huge numbers of refugees. They urged an immediate halt to the violence and killings ravaging that country and called on the concerned parties to adopt a spirit of national reconciliation, end the violence, and form a new government.

The ministers appealed to the world community to send generous relief supplies and other humanitarian aid to the Rwandan people and refugees. They also called for additional economic, financial, and technical assistance to rebuild that country.

The ministers expressed their appreciation to the Burundian Government and people for their commitment to national reconciliation. They welcomed the formation of a state council and a new transitional government in Liberia on 7 March 1994, regarding this as a positive step toward stability in Liberia.

The ministers expressed solidarity with the Sierra Leonean Government's efforts to repulse the raids and rebellion of the United Revolutionary Front. They urged this government to continue its efforts to put a quick end to the rebellion.

The ministers praised the recent positive achievements in Mozambique illustrated by the implementation of the peace agreement between the Mozambican Government and Renamo [Mozambique National Resistance].

They also welcomed the Libyan-Chadian agreement to adhere to [the international ruling on] the Aouzou Strip.

They reiterated the Nonaligned Movement's support for the UN efforts to organize a referendum in the Western Sahara.

As for the Korean crisis, the ministers expressed concern over the continued partition of the Korean peninsula and voiced support for the Korean people's efforts to reunite their country. They noted the importance of maintaining peace and security in the peninsula for the sake of the Korean nation's prosperity. They expressed hope that the Korean nuclear issue would be settled peacefully by way of negotiations and dialogue.

Concerning Afghanistan, the ministers expressed concern over the fighting there and appealed to the Afghan leaders to observe an immediate and unconditional cease-fire, settle their differences by peaceful dialogue, and form a stable government on the basis of free and fair elections.

As to the Latin American region, the ministers acknowledged that this region has effectively participated in nonaligned activities and that its contributions to the shaping of a new world order are indispensable.

Regarding Bosnia-Herzegovina the ministers welcomed the agreements recently signed in Washington between the Bosnian and Croatian leaders and expressed hope that further positive steps will be made. They voiced concern over the acts of extermination and ethnic cleansing against the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina and affirmed that the UN Security Council should impose a total halt to fighting all over that country.

The conference adopted a resolution calling for respect for Bosnia-Herzegovina's sovereignty and territorial integrity. The resolution called for holding a UN-sponsored international conference on Bosnia-Herzegovina to attain a cease-fire and declare the entire country a safe haven.

Proposal for Bosnia Conference Adopted

BK0306135094 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0707 GMT 3 Jun 94

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, June 3 (OANA-BERNAMA)—The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) meeting in Cairo has unanimously adopted Malaysia's proposal that an international conference be held on Bosnia-Herzegovina, Foreign Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said Friday [3 June].

This is the first time that a large organisation like NAM has formally adopted our proposal to promote and initiate the hosting of the international conference, he said in a telephone interview from here.

With the agreement, it means that NAM, which has 108 members, is prepared to make efforts to hold the conference which has all along been only proposed by several other parties.

Abdullah is happy with the support given to Malaysia by heads of delegation when the proposal was discussed on Wednesday.

He said that the contact group of the Islamic Conference Organisation (IOC) had also expressed support for Malaysia's proposal that NAM initiate the hosting of the international conference.

The agreement was reached at the group's informal meeting where the Bosnian delegates gave a briefing on the latest situation in their country.

The group had also discussed matters to be included in the NAM's final document on Bosnia-Herzegovina, he said.

Ministers Issue Resolution on Rwanda

NC0306133194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0825 GMT 3 Jun 94

[Text] Cairo, 3 Jun (MENA)—The 11th conference of the Nonaligned Movement's [NAM] foreign ministers currently being held in Cairo has issued a resolution on Rwanda, urging the UN Security Council to quickly take all the necessary measures to immediately end the massacres taking place in Rwanda and to effectively provide all the necessary means for the deployment of peace keeping forces there as soon as possible.

The resolution, passed at the conclusion of the foreign ministers meetings today, also urges the international community to respond to the peaceful and humanitarian efforts being made in Rwanda by providing the material and financial resources and extending all practical assistance to ensure the immediate containment of pollution and the dangers to public health and the environment resulting from the human massacres taking place in Rwanda.

The resolution expresses the NAM's support for a round-table with the participation of all the parties to the conflict. It calls for drawing up an action plan for the reconstruction and rehabilitation of Rwanda.

The resolution appeals to the international community not to delay in supporting the good initiative by Kenyan President Daniel arap Moi, which calls for a minisummit of the countries bordering Rwanda to be held in Nairobi early next week to discuss this issue.

Israeli Raids on Lebanon Condemned

NC0306121494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1025 GMT 3 Jun 94

[Text] Cairo, 3 Jun (MENA)—The Nonaligned Movement's foreign ministers conference has condemned the Israeli air raids on south Lebanon. In a resolution passed today, the conference stresses its complete solidarity with the Lebanese Government and people, and support for Lebanon in defending its sovereignty by all available means.

The conference calls on the UN Security Council and the cosponsors of the peace conference in the Middle East, "the United States and Russia" to move immediately to put an end to Israeli aggression, which is against the UN Charter and is designed to torpedo the peace process. The resolution calls for saving the peace process from collapse.

The resolution expresses the nonaligned conference's concern over the Israeli acts of aggression against Lebanese towns and villages. It said that the new massacre committed by Israel and previous kidnappings and acts of terror are no doubt intended to torpedo the peace process.

Hisham Dimashqiyah, Lebanese ambassador in Cairo and head of the Lebanese delegation to the nonaligned conference, delivered a speech at the conference. He said that by its repeated acts of aggression against south Lebanon Israel is violating Lebanon's sovereignty and defying the peace process. He called on the conference to pass a resolution strongly condemning Israeli aggression and stressing solidarity with the Lebanese people in defending their sovereignty by all available means.

The foreign ministers and heads of delegations of Syria, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Palestine, Morocco, and Yemen delivered speeches in which they expressed support for Lebanon and called on the conference to pass an unequivocal resolution condemning Israeli aggression against south Lebanon. They also stressed that they support the Lebanese authorities efforts to extend their control throughout Lebanon.

Dimashqiyah told MENA that the Israeli aggression against Lebanon will impact negatively on the peace process in the Middle East, particularly the Lebanese track.

Responding to a question on Lebanon's intention to freeze the peace talks' Lebanese-Israeli track, Dimashqiyah said that freezing the negotiations may happen afer consultations among the higher Lebanese authorities, the Government, and the Chamber of Deputies. He said that the current Israeli air raids on Lebanon are part of a series of recurring acts of aggression, along with kidnappings of citizens and other air raids that kill and wound dozens of Lebanese. He said that the Lebanese Army is in a state of alert to repulse any aggression in cooperation with the Syrian forces operating in Lebanon. He noted that Israel uses any provocations or clashes on the border as a pretext to launch acts of aggression deep inside Lebanese territory, not just provocations in areas at the borders.

Syrian, Others View Israeli Assaults

NC0306133794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1147 GMT 3 Jun 94

[Text] Cairo, 3 Jun (MENA)—The Nonaligned Movement's foreign ministers 11th conference devoted much of its final session to the issue of the Israeli raids against south Lebanon. Several foreign ministers and delegation heads addressed the session on this subject.

Head of the Lebanese delegation Hisham Dimashqiyah remarked that yesterday's Israeli aggression against the country constitutes a declaration of war. He warned that the peace process is endangered and that the UN Security Council and the United States and Russia, the two sponsors of the peace conference, must put pressure on Israel.

Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' said that the Israeli aggression against Lebanon is not directed against one particular country but against the entire world community and the cosponsors of the peace conference. He added that this is not the first such aggression and will not be the last and that Israel's repeated assaults on the Arab parties participating in the peace process illustrate the Israeli design to ruin the peace process and smother the opportunity to attain peace.

Head of the Egyptian delegation Nabil al-'Arabi emphasized his country's backing for Lebanon and its support for a comprehensive and just Middle East peace. He said Israel must halt these acts, which threaten the peace operation and contravene international law. He pointed out that peacemaking needs a favorable climate and the attack on Lebanon posed a threat to the Lebanese nation.

The head of the Saudi delegation said he adds his voice to that of the other delegation heads in expressing profound concern and strong condemnation of the Israeli aggression against Lebanon. He stressed that Saudi Arabia supports the Lebanese people and wants the peace process to continue. He urged that UN Security Council Resolution 425, which provides for Israeli withdrawal from south Lebanon, be implemented.

PLO Political Department head Faruq Qaddumi accused Israel of deceiving the world. He said what is really happening between Israel and Palestine now is a new form of battle which, although it involves no violence, is a fresh stage of struggle.

Qaddumi added that Israel's acts of piracy in Lebanon, such as its abduction of Lebanese citizens, prove that it does not seek peace but is persisting in its efforts to derail the peace process. He said regional peace is still far away.

The head of the Libyan delegation reiterated support for Lebanon, condemned Israel, and urged the Security Council, the United States, and Russia to intervene to salvage the peace operation.

The Yemeni and Moroccan foreign ministers also declared support for Lebanon.

Committee on South Africa Dissolved

NC0306123594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1114 GMT 3 Jun 94

[Text] Cairo, 3 Jun (MENA)—The Nonaligned Movement's [NAM] foreign ministers conference issued a resolution today ending the work of the NAM committee on South Africa and submitting a recommendation to this effect to the movement's countries and governments leaders for ratification.

The conference said in its final session that this resolution is based on the start of a new stage in the history of South Africa following the holding of the first democratic elections there and the formation of a nonracial government.

It noted that the resolution is in line with the report presented by Indonesia's special envoy Nanasutrisna [name as received], who chaired the NAM session and who called for ending the work of the committee in light of these developments.

Arab-Israeli Talks

Israel Rejects Border Discussion With Jordan

TA0506160994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1505 GMT 5 Jun 94

[Report by Washington correspondent Arye Golan]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] While Jordan insists on immediately discussing the demarcation of its international border with Israel and border amendments in the 'Arava, Israel says that such a discussion can be held only in the framework of peace agreement negotiations.

What the parties do intend to discuss is the Jordanian grievance aired over the past few days that the Israeli-Palestinian economic agreement signed in Paris has driven Jordan out of the West Bank. [passage omitted]

Jordanian Delegate Views Economic Talks With Israel

JN0606111594 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 6 Jun 94 pp 32, 24

[Report by Hamdan al-Hajj]

[Text] Amman—Dr. Fayiz al-Tarawinah, chief of the Jordanian delegation to the Jordanian-Israeli peace talks, has said that today's meeting of the Jordanian-U.S.-Israeli economic committee aims at getting acquainted with the stands of the Israeli side vis-a-vis the topics on the Jordanian agenda signed on 14 September. In a telephone interview conducted by AL-DUSTUR, Dr. al-Tarawinah said: We will not concede any of our rights. We want to make progress and achieve a qualitative step forward in the talks in accordance with the agenda and the point of reference for the peace process. The principles and constants will remain unchanged, and we will continue to adhere to the principle of comprehensive solution.

Dr. al-Tarawinah, who is also Jordan's ambassador in Washington, noted that the achievement of or failure to achieve progress in these talks depends on what the Israeli side will present, particularly since the Jordanian stands are declared and firm and we have Jordanian and Arab rights to which we adhere.

The chief Jordanian delegate added: Jordan's stand vis-a-vis the bilateral and multilateral talks has always been clear and candid. We reduced the Jordanian participation in the peace talks and our condition to return to the talks was to lift the siege of al-'Aqabah. Now that this issue has ended and the American side has announced its agreement on the Jordanian proposals to this effect—except for some administrative and formal problems—nothing now prevents the participation in and return to these talks, especially since Jordan has not suspended its participation in the multilateral talks but set conditions for its return.

Dr. al-Tarawinah noted that the return to the Jordanian-Israeli bilateral talks is also based on Jordan's adherence to and linkage with the concept of comprehensive solution, particularly since this includes comprehensive Jordanian and Arab rights. Jordan has its own issues and rights and now it is time to move toward the Jordanian facts, constants, and pillars. These Jordanian rights are part of the Arab rights and issues.

The joint tripartite committee, which will hold its first meeting today, 6 June, comes after the last round [of bilateral talks] which was held last February. The Jordanian delegation, which is led Dr. al-Tarawinah, also includes Michel Marto, deputy of the Central Bank of Jordan; Dr. Safwan Tuqan, secretary general of the Planning Ministry; and Dr. Mundher Haddadin, chief of the Jordanian delegation to the water committee in the multilateral talks.

'Good' Atmosphere Reported at Talks

TA0706075194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0400 GMT 7 Jun 94

[Text] The economic talks in the Jordan—U.S.-Israeli forum will continue today. Our Washington correspondent Arye Golan reports that although the atmosphere in the talks is good and positive, no agreements have yet been reached. Israeli sources said that part of the talks—pertaining to the demarcation of the road from Jordan to Egypt via Israel—may be relocated to the region. Israel claims that the marking and measuring work could be used to demarcate the border between the two countries, an issue which Jordan would like to tackle already at this point. It was further reported that the United States may be involved in the paving of this road.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Chief Meets With Yemen's al-'Attas

Al-'Attas on Need To End Bloodshed

NC0606134194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1150 GMT 6 Jun 94

[Text] Cairo, 6 Jun (MENA)—Today Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid received Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, head of the government recently announced in Aden.

In a statement after the meeting, al-'Attas said they discussed the current military escalation in Yemen and Sanaa's defiance of the UN Security Council's cease-fire resolution. He said that Sanaa's escalation of the situation in Yemen is manifested through the random shelling of economic installations in the south, such as the oil refinery in Aden that caused big fires to break out in it. This is in addition to the random shelling of residential areas, such as al-Shaykh Duwayl and al-Shaykh 'Uthman neighborhoods.

He added that fierce battles are currently taking place because of the offensive, which has been launched by the Sanaa forces against the south. He emphasized that "the people of the south are desperately defending their city."

Al-'Attas said that serious developments are currently taking place in Yemen. The first development is the issuance of a Muslim legal edict by Dr. 'Abd-al-Wahhab al-Daylami, member of the higher committee of the Yemeni Reform Grouping, which is the third party in the government coalition, allowing the killing of children, women, and old people and ruling out a cease-fire in Yemen. Al-'Attas said that this edict expresses Sanaa's insistence to continue the war.

He said that the second serious development is Sanaa's refusal to accept the UN Security Council's cease-fire resolution, citing flimsy reasons to justify its decision.

Al-'Attas affirmed that the Arab League is currently intensifying its contacts and efforts to bring about a cease-fire and stop the bloodshed in Yemen.

Answering a question about the extent of international recognition achieved by the "Democratic Republic of Yemen," which was declared in Aden, al-'Attas said that recognition is not the first issue on the agenda. The first issue is stopping the bloodshed. Al-'Attas praised the statement Egypt issued today in support of the efforts to end the war between the north and south in Yemen. Al-'Attas described Egypt as "one of the main countries working to achieve peace and stability in Yemen."

Asked about Sanaa's claim that unity was established on the basis of a popular referendum, and therefore, the south has no right to dissolve this unity, al-'Attas said that the unity agreement was concluded by Yemeni leaders and not through a referendum. He added that the parliamentary elections, which took place on 27 April expressed the position of the south which rejects the north's view that it is the principal part and the south is a branch. The Yemeni Socialist Party retained all the seats in the southern constituencies.

Sanaa Cease-Fire Offer Termed 'Important'

NC0606180494 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 6 Jun 94

[Text] In the first reaction to north Yemen's decision to implement a cease-fire as of midnight tonight, Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has said that Sanaa's decision is important. It is a response by the Yemeni leadership to the efforts that have been made to stop the bloodshed in Yemen, he said. He added that the decision is undoubtedly a positive first step that needs speedy work to prepare the right climate for the resumption of the dialogue between the brothers in Yemen to achieve security and stability and stop the bloodshed in compliance with Security Council Resolution No. 924.

Islamic Affairs

Radical Muslim Group in UK Plans Conference

LD0606160494 Tehran IRNA in English 1510 GMT 6 Jun 94

[Text] London, June 6, IRNA—Hezb ut-Tahrir says that it is inviting Muslims from around the world to a conference in London to prepare the ground for the setting up of an Islamic state in a Middle East country, yet to be identified.

The radical group is totally non-committal about its organization or where it gets its claimed support that are said to number some 2,000 members in Britain and unknown quantity in other countries, which it is equally vague about.

Instead it speaks in terms of an estimated 12,000 Muslims from around the world hopefully attending its conference at Wembley arena on August 7 to discuss the past, present and future of Islam.

Hezb ut-Tahrir was originally established in 1952, but has been a largely dormant group until recent years, when it has set up its stall as a radical Muslim group "differing from all others." It also claims not to recognize any Islamic sects.

The shadowy organization is particularly tight-lipped about where it gains its funds from for its campaigning, which is rated as one of the most active on British university campuses.

Its main objective has been to feed on Muslim youths, alienated from Britain's secular society, by appealing for a radical agenda in high emotive terms but without any definite aims.

The increasing public profile given to Hezb ut-Tahrir comes at a time of a huge growth in Islamic splinter groups in Britain, each with their own seeming agenda to defeat efforts for a collective voice for Britain's 1.5 million Muslim community.

The group in London is led by Omar Bakri Mohammad, a Saudi Arabian, who receives his orders from Abdul Qadim al-Jlum of unknown origins but who is said to be "somewhere in the Middle East."

While the organization is discreet about its funding, it is thought to have been revitalized to try to counter support for the Islamic movement taking its lead from the Islamic revolution in Iran, which it says it does not accept.

Its contention, claimed to be "purely ideological," is that it wishes to bring down all Arab regimes to enact what appear to be a "hidden agenda" which its members are reluctant to spell out.

The main publicity for Hezb ut-Tahrir has come from the Zionist press, which has voiced regular fears about its claimed calls for the killing of Jews that have been strenuously denied along with its often out-of-context quotations from the holy Quran.

Palestinian Affairs

'Reliable Sources' Cited on 'Arafat's Poor Health

JN0706105594 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic 6 Jun 94 p 1

[Text] AL-MAJD has learned that President Yasir 'Arafat's state of health is not reassuring. He is suffering from irregular heartbeats, fever, and acute influenza, in addition to a deteriorating morale and nervous system.

Reliable sources told AL-MAJD that 'Arafat's health is more serious than declared and that his aides are extremely worried about his health although they downplay the seriousness of his illness in their public statements.

'Arafat's entourage was split over his treatment. One team proposed transferring him to the al-Husayn Medical Center [in Amman]. Another team proposed summoning a French medical team to treat 'Arafat in Tunis and thus keep his critical health condition a secret.

'Arafat, weakened by the plane crash in the Libyan desert, has recently been exposed to many psychological and political pressures which exacerbated his health condition and greatly sapped his strength.

One of his aides told AL-MAJD that 'Arafat's fear of the self-rule experiment, the opposition forces' firm refusal to participate in the National Authority, and the failure of Europe, America, and Japan to provide him with the promised billions, in addition to the abstention of many personalities from supporting him and sharing power with him, have made him susceptible to anxiety, sleeplessness, constant tension, and loss of balance and concentration. The close aide added: What can Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] do when he finds that his closest companions like Faruq Qaddumi, Khalid al-Hasan, and Muhammad Jihad have disappointed and abandoned him? They object to his plans and refuse to accept any post he is proposing to them.

Concluding, the aide said with a sigh: "I am afraid that Abu-'Ammar's proponents and opponents have started to think of the stage after him and of the need to fill the leadership vacuum expected after his departure."

'Arafat Likely To 'Return' to Gaza, Jericho in Jul

NC0706095194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0903 GMT 7 Jun 94

[Text] Tunis, 7 Jun (MENA)—Informed Palestinian sources have stated that PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat intends to return to Jericho and Gaza in July leading the Palestinian leadership and PLO institutions.

The sources stressed that a final and definitive date for 'Arafat's return has not been set despite much talk about unrealistic dates. They say the return is likely to be in July so that it will precede the dates of municipal and legislative elections and they note that the elections, due for October, are inconceivable in the absence of 'Arafat and PLO institutions and agencies connected with the election campaign.

The sources said 'Arafat will return to Gaza and Jericho accompanied by 400 high-ranking leaders and agencies associated with the daily routine who have not been separated from 'Arafat for a quarter of a century.

Abu-Zayyad Calls For End to Talk on Jerusalem

TA0706101894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0705 GMT 7 Jun 94

[Telephone interview with Ziyad Abu-Zayyad, "spokesman for the Palestinian leadership," by Rafi Rosenfeld; place not given; from the "It Is All Talk" program—live]

[Text] [Rosenfeld] In connection with the Peres letter, the Israelis feel that 'Arafat made a mountain out of a molehill. The government is claiming that the letter merely guarantees the status quo of the Jerusalem institutions and nothing more. What do you say?

[Abu-Zayyad] I say that you have nothing better to do than make mountains out of molehills. The truth is that I am surprised at both the Israeli media and the Israeli politicians' preoccupation with this matter. I think Jerusalem is a very sensitive issue, and the constant discussion of it merely serves to complicate it and incite the sides against each other. Therefore, I think we—both sides—should drop the issue. In my opinion, the Palestinians should stop making political statements about Jerusalem, and the Israelis should do the same. At the same time, the closure should be lifted gradually,

because what is inciting the Palestinians is the continued closure and the suffering to which the Arabs have been subjected in the context of Jerusalem.

[Rosenfeld] Your remarks imply a great affinity between the Israeli Government and the Palestinian leadership on the issue of Jerusalem. Could this affinity be the result of some other secret addenda?

[Abu-Zayyad] Listen, as far as I know, there are no secret addenda. I have noticed that the Israeli opposition has been trying to attack the government and turn the Israeli people against the government and the peace process. All those who support the peace process and desire peace should be sufficiently alert to distinguish between malicious pronouncements intended to agitate and those made sincerely.

[Rosenfeld] Ziyad Abu-Zayyad, there is one point I would like to clarify with you. We heard this morning that the Palestinian leaders have a copy of the letter to the Norwegian foreign minister, but with one difference: Your copy is dated one month earlier than the one that was sent to Foreign Minister Holst.

[Abu-Zayyad] First of all, although I know a lot and am involved in many facets of Palestinian politics, I have neither seen nor heard about such a letter. I do not know where you obtained your information about the letter in 'Arafat's possession.

[Rosenfeld] It was reported on the radio this morning.

[Abu-Zayyad] Listen, Israeli radio and press publish lots of unsubstantiated and unfounded reports.

[Rosenfeld] Are you saying that although you have not seen it, it may exist?

[Abu-Zayyad] My not having seen it does not mean that it does not exist, but what I am telling you is that we must treat press and radio reports cautiously, because there are many unfounded reports.

[Rosenfeld] Now to two ostensibly technical questions. Peres said this morning that if the Palestinians conduct Palestinian affairs from Orient House in East Jerusalem, the place will be closed. Are you conducting autonomy affairs from there?

[Abu-Zayyad] Orient House was launched as part of the overall peace process, and it will continue to operate in that capacity.

[Rosenfeld] I do not understand. Are you saying that Palestinian autonomy matters will be run from there?

[Abu-Zayyad] No, definitely not. I do not see how you could have understood that. As I told you, Orient House started operating right after the Madrid Conference within the broad framework of the peace process. It does not belong in the autonomy, it is not part of the autonomy, and its offices are not autonomy offices. Orient House will continue to operate as it did before the Gaza-Jericho agreement, and it will continue to operate even after the Gaza- Jericho agreement is implemented. Now, the Gaza-Jericho agreement stipulates that the central Gaza-Jericho authority will be in Jericho, and there is no argument about that. Thus, the Palestinian self-rule institutions that will be established in Gaza and Jericho will naturally be situated in Gaza and Jericho.

[Rosenfeld] I have another technical question, Ziyad Abu-Zayyad. Minister Shahal said this morning that if any security officers operate in East Jerusalem, they will be detained. Are there any such officers?

[Abu-Zayyad] There are none. To put it briefly and unequivocally: There are no Palestinian security officers in East Jerusalem. There are security guards situated inside Orient House, and their work is connected solely to Orient House. They are under clear, unequivocal orders precluding their operation outside Orient House. You may see one of them still wearing his clothes with an Orient House emblem on his way home, but it does not mean that he is on duty or that he is patrolling the area or on duty. We are fully aware of the legal aspects of the activity of these people, and they will not attempt to exceed the limits of their authority.

[Rosenfeld] Thank you very much, Ziyad Abu-Zayyad.

Al-Husayni on Shahal Meeting, Jerusalem Status

JN0706121794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 0945 GMT 7 Jun 94

[Report by Qol Yisra'el correspondent Sa'id Mu'addi; from the "With the Midday Events" program—italicized passages are recorded]

[Text] Police Minister Moshe Shahal has renewed his past regular meetings with Faysal al-Husayni following the imposition of a security cordon on the territories and the appointment of al-Husayni as PLO official in charge of following up the situation in Jerusalem. Shahal's meeting with al-Husayni came at a time of media clamor and exchanged accusations between the government and opposition parties against the backdrop of the letter Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres sent to his Norwegian counterpart late Jorgen Holst. During his meeting with al-Husayni, Minister Shahal underscored the government's position on the current crisis.

Talking about this meeting, al-Husayni adds: *He also raised the issue of the existing relationship, the political process, the status of Jerusalem, and all related matters.*

Regarding the Palestinian viewpoint on the contents of the letter Shim'on Peres sent on the status of the Palestinian institutions, al-Husayni says: *Yes, this is the way we understand the letter. We believe that the subject of Jerusalem or negotiations on the future of Jerusalem will take place in the second phase. Until then, the status of these institutions and the importance of Arab presence in Jerusalem should be maintained. The letter is with the Israelis, Norwegians, and the PLO. It was considered*

secret. Consequently, it is not with us. But since it was announced, I think we can obtain it.

Orient House has in the past served as a starting point for several activities on the peace process, including the preparation of working papers for the Washington talks.

Orient House is a Palestinian institution. Many activities on the political process as a whole sprang from it. These activities are completely linked to the political process, that is, to a comprehensive solution, God willing. As for partial solutions like the issue of the national authority in Gaza and Jericho first, these are partial and not comprehensive. Consequently, Orient House remains in its place doing the same services it used to do until we enter the final stage and until we reach a final solution, God willing.

Regarding the meeting held at Orient House yesterday evening in the presence of several Palestinian political and religious figures, Faysal al-Husayni says: *The situation in Jerusalem was reviewed. The problems facing us, including the closure of Jerusalem from the rest of the occupied Palestinian areas and the financial problems facing some institutions, were also reviewed. We also discussed the current crisis of these institutions and this controversy between us and the Israelis as well as the sensitivity of the subject and the need to address it without creating useless side battles. I was asked to follow up the establishment of this committee [not further identified] in order to follow up all issues related to the Palestinian institutions and Palestinian citizens.*

Gaza Police Chief Curbs Mosques Political Activity

TA0606191894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 6 Jun 94

[Text] General Nasr Yusuf, commander of the Palestinian police force, has ordered all the imams in Gaza Strip mosques to halt all political activity in the mosques and to stop issuing calls against the autonomy authorities over loudspeakers. Our correspondent Nisim Qeynan reports that Nasr Yusuf also ordered to shut down the mosques after the last daily prayer, which usually ends at 2100. He also warned the imams against nonreligious activity in the mosques. The Islamic movement in the Gaza Strip has expressed opposition to and anger over Yusuf's directives and over the fact that the Palestinian police is hampering its activity.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1130 GMT on 6 June adds: "Nasr Yusuf, commander of the Palestinian police in Gaza, has been removed from his position as the Palestinian national security commander [as heard], apparently against the background of the sharp verbal clashes between him and Hamas (Islamic Resistance Movement). He will be replaced by 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Majayirah, who headed the Palestinian delegation for security talks with Israel. Recently there have been sharp clashes between Nasr Yusuf and extremist Muslims in Gaza against the background of Yusuf's demand to disarm Hamas and Islamic Jihad activists, and also in the wake of the incarceration of Hani al-'Abd, an Islamic Jihad activist. This is reported by our Arab Affairs correspondent Oren Kohen."]

Gaza Police Force Said 'Completely Overworked'

JN0406091494 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 4 Jun 94 p 10

[By Maryam M. Shahin]

[Text] Gaza City—Every day hundreds of people gather outside the headquarters of the Palestinian police force waiting to meet with officials. Carrying papers and a request of some sort, they seek to make their first contact with Palestinian authorities, who they hope, will begin to solve some of their problems.

But the Gaza police headquarters, with only 500 policemen at its immediate disposal, is completely overworked.

"Our priorities are law and order, to clean up Gaza and to help set the ground-work for a civic society," said the overall commander of all military units in Gaza, Major General Nasir Yusuf.

Meeting delegation after delegation of well-wishers and people with complaints in his spartan office overlooking the Mediterranean Gen. Nasir is visibly tired, keeping a dawn-to-midnight office schedule.

The return to Palestine is much harsher than expected by Gen. Nasir and most other Palestinians here. The 500 policemen stationed in Gaza and 3,500 other members of the Palestinian National Security Forces (PNSF) as well as the two investigative branches of the armed forces have not been paid in months. Housing is extremely sparse and most of the policemen and PNSF members are still being dined by Gazans' in on-going gestures of welcome.

But Gen. Nasir comes straight to the point. "We have not received sufficient promised equipment and aid from the donors," he said. According to Gen. Nasir almost none of the promised aid with the exception of blue police-uniforms and some weapons have reached the police force.

"The communications equipment, the cars, the office furniture have not materialised. I don't know how the donors expect us to work," says Gen. Nasir with a tone of frustration.

A tour of several police stations showed that the furniture has been donated by local Gazans. The sanitary conditions of police and army bases left behind by Israel are "unacceptable" and belied Israeli prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's statement promising to leave well-kept and well-equipped stations behind for the Palestinians.

No furniture was left behind. Sewage systems are being totally renewed, creating some work for Gazan plumbers.

Last week newspaper ads called on eligible Palestinians to join the Palestinian police.

"We waited so far because we can't train people without some equipment. So we want to start recruitment in the hope that the needed equipment will arrive soon. The donors in Cairo and Oslo signed papers but thus far have done very little follow-up work," said Gen. Yusuf.

Palestinian policemen are being driven to their posts by the PNSF members in their American-provided khaki coloured Chevrolet jeeps.

Gaza, says Gen. Nasir, needs some 3,000 policemen. The "requirements" listed in the local newspapers for a policeman is that he be between 18 and 25 years of age, have a secondary school certificate, be of two Palestinian parents, be of good "national character" and agree to serve 12 years in the police force.

Most of the serving policemen where either policemen during Egyptian and later Israeli rule or men conscripted outside the occupied territories specifically for police work.

Its purpose is to control traffic and deal with civic issues and register and act on complaints about crime.

So far there has not been much crime, but at the police headquarters in the southern part of the Strip in Khan Yunus, eight men have already been arrested on charges ranging from theft to rape. Four men each sit in cells which measure five metres by five metres and the local police chief allows journalists to take a peek to observe the clean conditions of he cells. Photographs, however, are not allowed.

Prior to the arrival of the Palestinian police, crimes were punished through the intervention of local notables or tribal leaders or through retaliations, says Gen. Nasir. "Now people come and report to us and we must act fast to show that we can take control and make people feel secured by our presence."

But most of the work that Gaza policemen have to deal with is either traffic control or land complaints.

When not directing the rather chaotic traffic in Gazan towns and refugee camps, policemen dutifully sit at their desks and register land complaints.

Since the Israeli occupation began in 1967 land registration stopped; 27 years later issues of inheritance and family feuds over inheritance is by far the most prominent police-related issue for many Gazans.

"These land issues are taking up a lot of our time. Soon a judiciary will be in place to deal with them in a more concrete form. We are being a bit overburdened by these issues because we have very little power to make legal decisions of this kind—once these decisions are taken we can implement them," said Gen. Yusuf.

PLO Cadres Leave for Gaza; Financial Worries Grow

NC0406064094 Paris AFP in English 0305 GMT 4 Jun 94

[Text] Tunis, June 4 (AFP)—A group of 158 officers and officials of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) left here Friday [3 June] night aboard a special flight to Cairo en-route for the autonomous Gaza Strip.

It was the first large contingent of Palestinian exiles based in Tunis to return to the territories vacated by Israel to be placed under Palestinian self-rule .

The 158 who are officially part the Palestine Liberation Army, the PLO's military arm, were mainly officials who had served for the last few years in the PLO's various civilian departments.

Some who had never worn a uniform seemed ill at ease in the green military fatigues offered by the Tunisian authorities.

The group included six Palestinian journalists, some of whom will man the first bureau in Gaza of the Palestinian news agency WAFA. Others will join the Palestinian television service now under construction.

The contingent left for Cairo on a Tunisian aircraft chartered by Saudi Arabia. The group will travel by bus from Cairo to the border and will cross over into Gaza at Rafah on Sunday.

Several senior Palestinian officials, including the Palestinian ambassador in Tunis Hakam Bal'awi and Ahmad Quray' (Abu-'Ala'), economics "minister" of the new Palestinian Authority took part in a farewell ceremony at Tunis airport.

A Palestinian source said 20 security agents trained in Tunisia or in other countries had left Tunis since Thursday for the Gaza Strip and the other autonomous territory of Jericho on the West Bank.

So far, 3,500 Palestinian policemen have been deployed in the two territories which PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat is scheduled to visit in the middle of June.

"The next step is to repatriate the political cadres to Gaza and Jericho," a senior PLO official told AFP Friday.

Abu-'Ala' told journalists that promised funds from international donors must be forthcoming quickly, saying the lack of resources was causing serious anxiety to Palestinians.

"Without the means there can be no security," he said.

Thirty-one of the officials' family members had left earlier Friday by a scheduled flight to Cairo.

The leader of the contingent, Colonel Samih Nasr, 46, said he hoped to have the means "to defend the dignity and institutions" of the new Palestinian authority.

He denied that the Palestinian police would be repressive, saying "that is not our aim."

Islamic Jihad Considers Forming Political Party

NC0606210394 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 5 Jun pp 1, 18

[Report by the Abrar Media office in Gaza]

[Text] In an exclusive statement to AL-QUDS, Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Shami, a prominent figure close to the Islamic Jihad in Gaza, has said that the group has recently been engaged in a political dialogue to find some formula for action through a political front [wajihah siyasiyah] that would avoid clashes with the Palestinian self-rule authority.

The cadres of the movement have almost unanimously agreed to establish a formula for public political, social, and cultural action through which the Islamic Jihad can perform its Islamic duty to further the Palestinian cause, he said.

Shaykh al-Shami, who served as the official spokesman for the Islamic Jihad deportees in Marj al-Zuhur in Lebanon, said the public front will not be a substitute for, but a backer of, the Islamic Jihad.

Asked if this political front will also be active in the West Bank areas that are not under the authority of the Palestinian self-rule council, Shaykh al-Shami explained that the establishment of the front is linked to the circumstantial change: the launching of the Palestinian self-rule authority. The front will operate only in the Palestinian autonomous region, he said.

Shaykh al-Shami believes the front will be open to all Palestinians who embrace Islam, are committed to it, and who work for the Palestinian cause.

On the possibility of the leaders of this front participating in the upcoming elections for the self-rule council, Shaykh al-Shami said it is not necessary for every political party or political front to participate in all elections or in the executive power.

Our clear political position, he said, is not to participate in the institutions of the self-rule, which the Islamic Jihad has opposed from the very beginning.

Asked about the issue of Hani 'Abid, a journalist close to the Islamic Jihad who has been detained by the Palestinian authorities for more than 10 days, al-Shami said that after several meetings between Palestinian security leaders and figures close to the Islamic Jihad, the Palestinian security leadership promised to release 'Abid within a few days. However, this did not happen and the Islamic Jihad is waiting for them to keep their promises, he said.

Al-Tibi Discusses Political Future

TA0406050994 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (LESHABAT supplement) in Hebrew 27 May 94 pp 12, 13

[Report on interview with 'Arafat's adviser Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi by Smadar Peri in al-Tibi's home "earlier this week"]

[Text] We should fall from our chairs in astonishment if in another two years, on the eve of the next Knesset elections, a new-old name appears in the lists of candidates: Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi—an Israeli Arab, a gynecologist, and PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat's Israeli adviser ("sometimes I speak on the phone with the honorable chairman two or three times a day").

"An interesting place, the Knesset," he wittily said earlier this week in a bid to mask his plans. "The heads of several Arab local councils in the Negev and the north called on me and urged me to found up a new movement."

[Peri] And what did you tell them?

[Al-Tibi] I did not say either yes or no. As far as I am concerned, you can write "he did not slam the door on them."

[Peri] And what if your friend Hayim Ramon were to run in a separate list in the Knesset elections and propose you join him?

[Al-Tibi] I appreciate Hayim Ramon very much and he is my friend, but such a move is not on the agenda. I do not see him running in a separate list. However, I would definitely like to be the Hayim Ramon of the Arab sector.

[Peri] Will you run for the Knesset alone?

[Al-Tibi] That is a weighty question which must be given proper consideration.

I listen to suggestions and hear rumors. Although there is a serious vacuum in the Arab leadership in Israel, I am presently busy with other issues. This is a gray and decadent leadership, an old generation which must be replaced. Some Arab Knesset members [MK] do not deserve the people's confidence. They have contributed nothing toward promoting the Arab sector, except for making minor headlines in local newspapers.

I foresee a change in the next Knesset elections. The Arab sector wants people with a track record and with influence. They want young leaders to replace these outdated men. [end al-Tibi]

In the meantime, he tries very hard to extinguish 'Arafat's fires. The hot cassette from Johannesburg begat two scandals, and al-Tibi reacted swiftly. Earlier this week he summoned a news conference in Haifa to explain to the Israeli people what the Quraish tribe and the Hudaybah

Treaty were all about, and to emphasize that 'Arafat is not secretly conspiring to violate the agreement with Israel.

A busy week. When 'Arafat forces the Israeli people to learn chapters in the history of Islam, his Israeli adviser has to run back and forth between the newsreels on Qol Yisra'el and IDF Radio, talk shows on television, and a joint appearance with Yosi Beilin in the campus of Beersheba University.

Dozens of journalists phone him and get an answering machine on the other end. 'Arafat's adviser recognizes the voices and decides when to pick up the phone.

[Peri] How did the idea of appointing you as an adviser come about?

[Al-Tibi] Nine months ago, me and my wife May (a dentist from Tulkarm) were invited to Tunis. I was sitting in on an extended session of the PLO Executive Committee on the eve of the signing ceremony in Washington. 'Arafat took everybody by surprise when he announced: Out of appreciation for his contribution to the Palestinian people, I decided to appoint Ahmad as a special adviser on all matters pertaining to the Israeli issue.

[Peri] What does being 'Arafat's adviser mean?

[Al-Tibi] It means not sleeping regular hours, being busy all day with overt and covert contacts in Israel and abroad, preparing 'Arafat's meetings with Peres and Rabin, getting a phone call from 'Arafat at 0620 on the morning of the massacre in Hebron and hearing him yell: Tell Rabin and Peres that a horrible massacre is under way in the mosque.

It means that I have to sit in my office and listen to the grievances and problems of people, although this is not in my brief. People even come to me with problems such as family feuds and neighbor disputes.

As far as I am concerned, the main target audience of the Palestinian leadership are the people in Judaea and Samaria, and the Israeli public immediately afterward. Let me emphasize: We must be more understanding of the feelings of the Israeli people.

[Peri] What is the salary of 'Arafat's adviser?

[Al-Tibi] I have not received a cent since the appointment; neither a salary, nor reimbursement for phone calls and plane tickets. However, I do not complain. Others have not received anything either. I have a gynecological practice in East Jerusalem four-five times a week, and my wife earns a living for the two of us. According to my calculations, to date I have spent $52,000. How to put it? 'Arafat owes me.

[Peri] Do you believe you will ever get your money back?

[Al-Tibi] Two months ago I complained to 'Arafat that the bill was getting bigger and he smiled at me. "Go to Abu-Ahmad," he suggested. I smiled back at him.

[Peri] Who is Abu-Ahmad?

[Al-Tibi] He is my father, and he really helps me here and there. Now that there is an agreement, he is finally pleased about what I do. [end al-Tibi]

Al-Tibi is not everybody's pet. In Orient House, for example, he is known as "Ahmad Tizi." Our government ministries use other nicknames, most of them aimed at 'Arafat. Israeli Arabs are also quite critical of him, but four times already he was elected the most popular figure in public opinion polls in the Arab sector.

He is 36 years old, talented and smart as a whip, hard-working, sharp, and articulate in two languages. He is telegenic and relishes a good fight with our extreme right wing. His relationship with his old friend, MK Dedi Zucker, recently soured.

On the morning of the signing of the agreement on mutual recognition between Israel and the PLO in Washington, al-Tibi snuck into the Mayflower Hotel to the floor in which Rabin and Peres were staying.

At the last minute, an argument emerged over the identification of the signatories. Rabin demanded "the Palestinian delegation." Al-Tibi, speaking for 'Arafat, announced that if the agreement does not bear the word "PLO" 'Arafat would stay in his hotel and there would be no signing. Al-Tibi made three shuttle trips between the hotels of the Israeli and the PLO delegations. When the bargaining was over, 'Arafat had won.

Al-Tibi says that to be 'Arafat's adviser on Israeli affairs means to be attentive to feelings in Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, and the settlements; to update 'Arafat about the results of the Histadrut labor federation elections and their repercussions on our political map. At the same time, he has the impossible mission of improving 'Arafat's dismal image in Israel.

[Al-Tibi] I believe 'Arafat must take Israel's sensitivities toward him into account. After such a bloody conflict, 'Arafat should have considered Israel's sensitivities, just as Rabin and other Israelis should be attentive to our side.

[Peri] Do you think 'Arafat's talk about a jihad was right?

[Al-Tibi] Let me put it this way: 'Arafat should have known that the word jihad has belligerent connotations to the Jewish ear. We could have done without this sentence.

[Peri] You have not been very successful in improving 'Arafat's image in Israel. Quite the contrary, his image is deteriorating by the day.

[Al-Tibi] I get the impression that politicians are trying to thrash 'Arafat left, right, and center in order to score points with the Israeli public. It is really an Israeli national sport.

[Peri] Tell us the secret: How did 'Arafat react to Rabin's and Peres' remarks that they cannot stand the contact of his hand?

[Al-Tibi] I do not want to say how he reacted, but he definitely did not jump for joy. [end al-Tibi]

All sorts of patients come to Dr. al-Tibi's clinic on Salah-al-Din Street in East Jerusalem: Palestinian women, members of the diplomatic and UN corps, Israeli women from Jerusalem's Rehavya and Pisgat Ze'ev and even from the settlements who first met al-Tibi when he worked at Hadassah Hospital and lived in the Neve Ya'aqov neighborhood. ("I ran away from there after one year because I could not afford to replace dozens of slashed tires, and I got fed up of hearing that I was a dirty Arab.")

Perhaps, the epitome of normalization is taking place in the gynecological field: young women whose families are identified with Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] are being referred through "discreet channels" to Israeli gynecologists in Tel Aviv and Petah Tiqva for hymen reconstruction surgery. It seems the young women only trust Israeli gynecologists to be discreet, keep their privacy, and see to it that they can marry respectably.

On the walls of the living room of his rented apartment in Bayt Hanina hang framed photographs of al-Tibi with 'Arafat, Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas], Faruq Qaddumi, Hakam Bal'awi, and Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh. There is also a historic photograph of 'Arafat, al-Tibi, and Nayif Hawatimah, leader of the rejectionist Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine. It was al-Tibi who managed to bring Hawatimah and 'Arafat together two years ago. They have not met since then, and Hawatimah keeps firing verbal barbs at 'Arafat.

However, what al-Tibi considers the jewel in his crown, the real cherry on the cake, is closing a circle of at least 10 years between Weizman ("the president of my state") and 'Arafat ("the president of my people").

[Al-Tibi] It was a dream that came true after 10 years. I am personally attached to both men. Weizman attended my wedding in Ramla, 'Arafat invited me and my wife to Tunis after our daughter Yara was born.

Weizman is the most prominent Israeli politician who was ahead of his time. When he talked about what everybody is doing today he took quite a lot of criticism. I, too, feel that I was ahead of my time and took quite a few blows. Who else in the Arab sector can pride himself of sharing a true friendship with Weizman, Sarid, Yosi Beilin, Hayim Ramon, and Eli Dayan? [end al-Tibi]

A specific phone call al-Tibi made six years ago from Tunis to Weizman's home in Caesarea almost led to the expulsion of Weizman, then a minister without portfolio, from the government. This week, al-Tibi discloses the full story behind that famous phone call.

[Al-Tibi] Six years ago, when Secretary of State Baker presented his five-point plan and the PLO responded with a categorical "no," I went to Tunis to try and soften the PLO's No. 2 man, Abu-Iyad [Salah Khalaf].

I met Abu-Iyad and 'Arafat in Hakam Bal'awi's office. A stormy four-hour argument ensued, during which I insisted that instead of saying "no" they should say "yes, but." In the end, together with Sa'id Kamal, the PLO ambassador in Egypt, I managed to persuade them.

I proposed to fly back to Israel at once and relay the message to the Labor Party, but Abu-Iyad insisted: "Call Weizman from here and inform him."

I phoned Caesarea and said what I said. Weizman called Peres on the other line, and we had a conference call. Abu-Iyad and 'Arafat were sitting and listening, but did not interfere in the conversation. When then-Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir learned about it, he hit the ceiling because the PLO's positive answer pushed him into a political corner. Shamir would have preferred that the PLO's reply had been negative. To punish me, he banned me from traveling abroad for two years, while Weizman was reprimanded by the head of the Shin Bet. [end al-Tibi]

The meeting between Weizman and 'Arafat in Johannesburg, after the drama 'Arafat caused in Cairo when he refused to sign the agreement, was rather cold.

[Al-Tibi] I felt good with the two of them, but I had been expecting a warmer meeting. After all, they knew each other well and had exchanged political and personal messages.

[Peri] The first meeting between Rabin and 'Arafat was also very tough.

[Al-Tibi] It is very hard to reach out to Rabin. With Peres it is easier.

[Peri] What did you want Rabin to think of 'Arafat, after being informed that 'Arafat was behaving like a man possessed, stamping his feet, screaming, and throwing a fit?

[Al-Tibi] Those publications left 'Arafat very bitter and helped him to get acquainted with the intricacies of Israeli politics and the incumbent officials in the Prime Minister's Office and the Foreign Ministry. And, believe you me, 'Arafat does not forget. The fact that he smiles to people does not mean anything.

[Peri] You probably rushed to inform 'Arafat what Rabin said two days ago about Netzarim, that "if this is a settlement, I am a monkey's uncle."

[Al-Tibi] Everything possible must be done to make the life of the settlers in the Gaza Strip unbearable through nonviolent means and to cause them to leave of their own free will.

[Peri] What do you mean by "nonviolent means?"

[Al-Tibi] I do not have to elaborate. [end al-Tibi]

Behind his back, people in Orient House say that he will soon find himself outside the picture, that 'Arafat will be done using him and will dump him.

[Al-Tibi] 'Arafat definitely crowns and dethrones people, but I will know when to step down before they get tired of me. Although I was offered, I do not see myself as part of the Palestinian Authority in the territories. I was offered a Palestinian passport, and I responded with a big smile. I see my future in al-Tayyibah. Contrary to others, I have a place to go.

[Peri] Will you retire quietly and dedicate yourself to your gynecological practice?

[Al-Tibi] I do not know. I have never forsaken Israel's Arabs, and all I have done to date has been designed to meet the avowed expectations of Israel's Arab population. At the same time, I will act in any way I can for the establishment of a Palestinian state.

[Peri] Do you envision yourself in the Knesset cafeteria in two years from now?

[Al-Tibi] I have been to the Knesset cafeteria more than once. The question is whether I will then be a guest or I will be inviting you as my guest.

'Urayqat Says General Council Elections Set

TA0506140094 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 5 Jun 94 p A4

[Report by Yosi Torpstein]

[Text] Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, who heads the Palestinian committee preparing the general elections in the territories and who was recently appointed minister of local government in the Palestinian Authority, stated on Friday [3 June] that the general elections for the establishment of a 100-member council would be held on 15 October and that the basic regulations of the elections would be completed by the end of this month. 'Urayqat made these remarks in a conference of Palestinian and foreign journalists about Palestinian media and democracy in the new reality in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

He added that the formulation of the Palestinian local government law would be completed by 15 July and that the establishment of municipality committees and village councils would be completed within less than a month, in time for the municipal elections. The Palestinian Authority will divide the territories into nine districts, he said, and the city of Gaza will be declared a district and will be split into four boroughs.

The conference held at the al-Watani Hotel in East Jerusalem is scheduled to end today. It was organized by the Palestinian Journalists Association and the International Journalists Association. The security forces banned 22 journalists—who were supposed to participate—from leaving the Gaza Strip, and the organizers lodged a protest with the authorities.

The issue of democratic structures under Palestinian self-rule was the key topic in the conference. Many participants expressed apprehension about the curtailment of the freedom of expression of Palestinian journalists in the territories and about government control of the media.

A letter sent by PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat, in which he promised to uphold democratic values and the peace process, was read at the beginning of the conference. "The Palestinian National Authority, which will run the affairs of our people until clean and general elections are held, will respect individual liberties, the freedom of thought, and the freedom of the press," 'Arafat stated.

Addressing the conference, Dr. 'Urayqat said that the Palestinian Authority does not plan to set up defense systems made up of aircraft, tanks, or missiles and that "the only way for the Palestinian people to survive the next 50 years is to embrace genuine democracy."

Radwan Abu-'Ayyash, head of the Palestinian Broadcasting Authority [PBA], said the PBA's operations would be based on the principles of freedom of expression and political pluralism and that contrary to the situation in sister countries in the Arab world, it would not be "a partisan apparatus or a government mouthpiece."

Abu-'Ayyash criticized the European Union for withholding the money it promised the PBA. He also accused Israel of holding up the release of technical equipment from customs and for holding up the allocation of broadcasting channels.

Palestinian Broadcast Corporation Goes on Air

NC0706062594 Paris AFP in English 0106 GMT 7 Jun 94

[By Nejla Sammakia]

[Text] Jericho, West Bank, June 7 (AFP)—Palestinian television has gone on the air for the first time, broadcasting a test card, although the transmission was hampered by the fact that it came from one of the lowest spots on earth.

The Palestinian Broadcasting Corporation (PBC) for radio and television put out a trial television transmission late Monday beamed from a converted hotel.

The corporation's circular logo, bearing the letters PBC in English, followed by the name in Arabic and the Palestinian flag on the side, was to appear on television screens for 24 hours.

The initial transmission covered Jericho only, and was beamed from a hotel which has been turned into a press center for the visit of PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat, expected here later this month.

As technicians connected cables and put up giant aerials on the roof, painters and carpenters were hurriedly renovating the 30-room building which has been closed to the public.

At a cost of around one million dollars, the television center's main function will be to cover 'Arafat's visit. Transmission to the rest of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip will be ready within a week, technicians promised.

After 'Arafat's visit is over, the station will continue to operate as a relay for the permanent broadcasting center, the location of which is at the centre of a dispute between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization.

The Palestinians want to set it up in the Israeli-occupied town of Ramallah, also on the West Bank, where a pre-1967 Jordanian center stands. But Israel wants them to stay in Jericho.

"We are happy to see the word 'Palestine' on the screen," said corporation head Radwan Abu-'Ayyash. "We've been watching and listening to others, now it's time for others to listen to us."

It is the first ever Palestinian television station. Until recently, the PLO beamed radio programs from stations in Cairo, Baghdad and Tunis.

However, not all residents were able to tune in their sets to the new station which used a higher frequency channel than usual. Palestinian technicians said they may later adjust the channel for wider reception.

Among the many problems facing the new station is the location of Jericho. At more than 400 meters (1,300 feet) below sea level, this valley oasis is one of the lowest spots in the world and will make transmission difficult.

"Our plan was to have a main studio in Ramallah, connected with one in Gaza and one in Jericho," Abu-'Ayyash said. "Because we have no other choice, we will transmit from Jericho although it is terrible from such a low area."

He said two French-made boosting towers were to be placed on a surrounding mountain and on a nearby highway. Most of the small equipment and transmitters was bought from Israel.

A French-donated vehicle for external transmission, and other equipment donated by Germany are on their way to Jericho, he said.

The corporation's major headache however is a lack of funds.

Abu-'Ayyash said 55 million dollars were needed to establish the permanent broadcasting center and its studios, most of which have been promised by the European Union but not yet arrived.

"The money is locked up in Brussels," he said. "We have the skills and the goodwill. But we have a political problem with Israel, and without solving the political and money problems, we can't do much."

Algeria

Foreign Ministry Welcomes Yemeni Cease-Fire Accord

LD0606234794 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 6 Jun 94

[Text] Among its reactions, Algeria has welcomed with satisfaction the Yemeni Government's decision to accept the cease-fire beginning at midnight tonight. In a statement by the official spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Algeria welcomed the Yemeni Government's decision and expressed the hope that the Yemeni brothers would immediately begin a dialogue and lay the foundations of a just and permanent settlement to the conflict based on the protection of the Yemeni people's higher interests.

The statement added that Algeria, in the words of head of state Liamine Zeroual, had repeatedly warned the Yemeni brothers of the great risks of the conflict to Yemen. The head of state had insistently indicated the need for dialogue and consultation to prevail in the confrontation, especially when he received the two special Yemeni envoys and in the greetings message that he sent to the leaders of that country on the occasion of the Yemeni national day.

Within this context, Algeria renews its desire and readiness to offer its cooperation and that of the AMU [Arab Maghreb Union]—of which Algeria currently holds the presidency—with the aim of putting an end to this bloody struggle.

Diplomat To Head UN Fact-Finding Mission to Yemen

LD0406143194 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 4 Jun 94

[Excerpt] [Announcer] The appointment of the Algerian diplomat Lakhdar Brahimi at the head of the UN fact-finding commission to Yemen has been received with great Yemeni and international satisfaction. Mr. Brahimi welcomes this mission to solve this fratricidal conflict. Over to you Abdelkader Djeridi.

[Djeridi] Mr. Lakhdar Brahimi, who was appointed the day before yesterday at the head of a UN mission to Yemen, said to MBC that he would begin the implementation of this mission immediately in accordance with UN resolution 924 issued last Thursday.

Mr. Brahimi, who has expressed his satisfaction with this mission and its acceptance by the parties in conflict, said that his mission was limited to fact-finding, getting acquainted with the situation existing in Yemen, and presenting a report on it to UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali. [passage omitted]

National Transitional Council Elects 6 Deputy Chairmen

LD0606203294 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 6 Jun 94

[Excerpt] Six deputy chairmen of the Transitional National Council were elected today in accordance with the internal statute passed a week ago. The Transitional National Council today held a session chaired by Mr. Abdelkader Bensalah, the council's chairman, to begin the election of six deputy chairmen from among the 22 candidates. Over to Nacema Kerat.

[Kerat] The election was held today by secret ballot and resulted in only two candidates winning in the first round by obtaining the majority required by the internal statute. They were Mr. Mohamed Taher (Dilmi), national secretary of the UGTA [Algerian General Workers Union], and Mr. Abdelmadjid (Monacera), national secretary in charge of information in HAMAS [Islamic Society Movement].

This meant that a second round had to be held to elect the other four deputy chairmen. Following the voting in this round, the following were elected as deputy chairmen: Abdelouahab (Oughidmi) of the Sons of the Martyrs Organization, Abdelhafiz Amoukran (Elhaceni) of the War Veterans' Organization, Nacer (Sakhri) of the National Party for Solidarity and Development, and Hacen (Haider) of the National Union of Algerian Farmers.

Thus the council has completed the formation of its bureau that is composed of a chairman and six deputy chairman. [passage omitted]

Security Services Break Up Large 'Terrorist' Unit

LD0606200694 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 6 Jun 94

[Text] The security services announced today that they had broken up a network made up of 60 terrorists after two-month-long investigations. Most of the members of the gang moved around with forged [identity] cards and specialized in theft, armed robbery, sabotage, and murder in Algiers, Blida, Boumardes, Bordj Bou Arreridj, and Oran.

Further Details Provided

LD0606224994 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 6 Jun 94

[Excerpts] In another statement the security services announced that 75 members of a terrorist network were arrested by the security forces after investigations begun about two months ago. Most of the members of this gang moved about using forged identity cards, and it is claimed that they belong to the Armed Islamic Group of Said Mekhlouf, the same source said. [passage omitted: gang specialized in various crimes, areas where it was active]

The gang used stolen money to buy houses that were used as hideouts in various areas of the country, the same source said.

Court Sentences 'Terrorist' Group Members

LD0606225194 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 6 Jun 94

[Text] The special judicial council of the capital Algiers handed down today sentences of one life imprisonment, three sentences of 10 years imprisonment, nine sentences in absentia for 20 years imprisonment against members of the Zitouni Ahmed terrorist group know as the group of Bir Khaden [area on the outskirts of Algiers].

This group was charged with a number of things such as attempted premeditated murder, theft, forming a group of evil-doers, the affiliation to an armed group and the possession of weapons.

According to this case, the events of which took place last year, the group consists of 19 members who were active in the areas of Bir Khadem and Draria, where they attempted to assassinate a senior officer in the National People's Army and a number of other figures.

Senior Customs Official Assassinated in Algiers

LD0606131294 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 6 Jun 94

[Text] Security services today announced that a senior cadre in the Algerian customs was assassinated when gunned down last night in his home in Dergana, in the eastern suburb of Algiers. Mr. Mohamed Moussouni, 40, was the director of the national computer and statistics center. The sources said the victim was father of two chidren.

Daily Paper's Journalist Killed on Street

LD0706102994 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1000 GMT 7 Jun 94

[Text] Security services said today that a journalist was shot dead on Frere Mouzaoui Street [city not stated]. The victim was Cherguit Ferhat, a journalist on EL-MOUDJAHID daily newspaper.

Egypt

Mubarak Meets With Southern Yemen's al-'Attas

EA0606193294 Aden Democratic Republic of Yemen Radio Network in English 1600 GMT 6 Jun 94

[Text] Muhammad Husni Mubarak, the Egyptian president, last night received Mr. Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, the prime minister. Present at the meeting were Muhsin Muhammad Bin Abu-Bakr Bin-Farid, the deputy prime minister and minister of planning and development; Salih Ubayd Ahmad, deputy prime minister and minister of transport and communications; and 'Abdallah 'Abd-al-Majid al-Asnaj, deputy prime minister and foreign minister. Present on the Egyptian side was Dr. Usamah al-Baz, the director of the Egyptian President's Office of Political Affairs.

Musa on Yemen Situation, African Debts Repayment

NC0706103094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0953 GMT 7 Jun 94

[Excerpts] Tunis, 7 Jun (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that Egypt stands by Yemen's unity, noting that this unity cannot be preserved by shedding more blood. He said Egypt supports international and Arab legitimacy in this and other issues.

In an interview with the Tunisian newspaper AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM today, Musa said fear of Arabizing or internationalizing the Yemeni crisis should not be a justification for the Arabs to sit with their hands tied without working to stem the bloodshed in fraternal Yemen.

He added that the fear of Arabizing the crisis is not a justification for an indifferent stand which some are asking us to adopt and leave the brothers fight each other. He went on: We had feared Arabizing and internationalizing the crisis in the Gulf and are now doing the same thing as if we are invited to let Arab blood spill all the time. [passage omitted]

On the $275-billion African debts, Musa emphasized the need to repay them according to schedules leading to the revival of African economies. He urged the industrial nations to set an annual percentage to help development processes in African states reach the international target figure of 0.7 per cent of the gross national product. He noted that this percentage barely reaches 0.3 despite these countries' pledges in various international forums.

The foreign minister said Egypt has put forth several proposals to the OAU, including one on the need to adopt specific measures urging the international community to help resolve the African debt problem.

Leader Says Muslim Brotherhood Has No Structure

NC0606184794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1815 GMT 6 Jun 94

[Text] Cairo, 6 Jun (MENA)—The northern al-Jizah Prosecution Office continued its interrogation of Muslim Brotherhood General Guide Hamid Abu-al-Nasr today. After four hours of questioning, the prosecution decided to resume the interrogations Thursday.

Abu-al-Nasr told his interrogators that the Muslim Brotherhood has had no official or structural organization since the decision to dissolve it in 1954. He said he is assuming the post of the group's general guide to shoulder his responsibility in filing lawsuits demanding that the dissolution decision be repealed. He noted that this is currently being examined by the judiciary.

Abu-al-Nasr said that as a general guide he issues statements expressing the Muslim Brotherhood's views on various issues. He stressed that he respects the Constitution and the laws and that he expresses his opinion through legitimate means allowed by law.

Police Officers To Be Prosecuted for Selling Arms

NC0606181494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1710 GMT 6 Jun 94

[Text] Cairo, 6 Jun (MENA)—Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi has decided to refer four police officers to the Higher State Prosecution Office for interrogation for selling arms from the Interior Ministry arms depots. These officers are Major Samir Mahmud Mujahid, chief of the arms depot at the General Administration for Police Supply; Major Hani Sabri Mahmud, chief of the Returned Arms Department at the same administration; Major Mustafa 'Ashur, depots secretary at the Central Security Department; and Captain Iyhab Nafi', head of the Department of Returned Arms at the police supply.

The Interior Ministry statement released today said that the four officers sold five Lee Enfield rifles, three automatic rifles, and a quantity of rounds to certain arms and ammunition dealers. The investigating agencies continue their efforts to seize other quantities of arms and ammuntion that were sold with the knowledge of the four officers.

The interior minister earlier pensioned off the four officers as soon as their involvement in this operation was uncovered. It should be recalled that the interior minister issued directives for periodic inspection of the arms and ammunition depots to make sure that the regular instructions on the handling of various arms were implemented.

Editor Raps Sudan's al-Turabi's Objectives

NC0506083094 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 28 May 94 pp 1, 3

[Article by chief editor Mahfuz al-Ansari: "Al-Turabi's Infernal Scheme: Water and the Approach to the Forbidden Target"]

[Text] It is clear that a secret, central, and binding decision to "poison" relations with Egypt and block all attempts to mend them is guiding Sudan's policy.

It is also clear that the decision came out of "the government's dark room" chaired and administered by "Imam Ayatollah Ruhollah [name as published] Hasan al-Turabi...!", the regime's spiritual leader, leader of the National Islamic Front [NIF], and member of the international organization of the "political Islam" movement.

The decision made by the "dark room" is binding on the Government, whose executive seat is filled by Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir and his comrades, officers of the National Salvation Movement that toppled al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's regime.

A clever cunning characterizes the way the objectives are chosen and the way in which the decisions are made and implemented. The "Imam Shaykh Hasan" possesses cleverness and cunning in ample measure. His tactics depend on choosing the right moment to focus on certain objectives that are increasingly vital.

The tactics are also marked by targeting acknowledged sanctities and the rules and principles that have historically safeguarded Egyptian-Sudanese ties.

These tacticians do not take into account—nor do they even care at all—whether these decisions harm the interests of the Sudanese people themselves.

Al-Turabi is pressing ahead toward "forbidden" goals, always challenging the "taboo."

The latest decision made inside the "shaykh's dark room," with which Lt. Gen. al-Bashir's "administration" complied, was to seize 30 posts owned by the Egyptian Irrigation Ministry in Khartoum, in the al-Shajarah area south of Omdurman, and other installations. This was a first step toward a greater and more important goal, namely the Nile observation posts on the Blue Nile, White Nile, Subat, 'Atbarah, al-Rusayris Dam, and Malakal areas. These Egyptian outposts are in Sudan on the strength of treaties, agreements, and international laws regulating the use of jointly owned rivers, observing their progress, securing the water resources, and distributing the water.

This tactical progress toward the "forbidden" goal, carried out step by step by the "Imam" and his dark room is a blatant encroachment on the Nile water and Egypt's share of it. This objective cannot be concealed by the Sudanese Government's disingenuous media explanations made after the seizure of the Egyptian irrigation posts.

While the Sudanese media tried to cover up the recent seizure of Egyptian posts with feeble pretexts, Sudanese Irrigation Minister Ya'qub Abu-Shura announced that "Sudan's share of the [High Aswan] Dam water according to the 1959 agreement between Egypt and Lt. Gen. 'Abbud [Sudanese leader 1958-1964] does not satisfy Sudan's needs and therefore the agreement must be revised."

The facts contradict these statements, which remain a mere excuse for disputes and confrontations. The facts, which neither the Sudanese irrigation minister nor Lt. Gen. al-Bashir, nor for that matter the spiritual leader "Ayatollah al-Turabi," can deny are the following:

—Since 1992, Sudan has refused to hold a meeting of the Higher Joint Technical Nile Water Committee. According to existing agreements, this committee must meet every six months, in Sudan and Egypt

alternately. This intentional suspension of the committee's functions has brought consultation, discussion, and cooperation to a halt.

—Sudan uses only 4 billion cubic meters of its annual 18- billion-meter share of the Nile River water. Although no one is preventing it from doing so, it is not equipped to use the rest of its share. It simply cannot use it all.

—Sudan informed Egypt some time ago that it planned to raise the height of the al-Rusayris Dam and increase its holding capacity by an additional 4 billion cubic meters. Egypt did not object, but said "Go ahead with God's blessing."

Sudan came back and said it needed more electric power and planned to build a reservoir called al-Hamdab Reservoir in the town of Murrah north of Khartoum. Egypt again did not object and Sudan hired a Russian company to carry out feasibility studies at a cost of $30 million.

Returning to the facts, we refer to the "High Dam" agreement with Sudan of 1959. Before the dam was built, Egypt's water quota, as agreed upon with the Nile basin states, was 48 billion cubic meters. Sudan's quota was 4 billion cubic meters.

The High Dam studies, before and after the project was carried out, proved that the amount of water added by the dam is 31 billion cubic meters, of which 10 cubic meters evaporates per year, between one flood and the next. The remaining added amount is thus 21 billion cubic meters, which Egypt requested be shared equally between itself and Sudan. But Sudan objected, requesting that it get two-thirds to Egypt's one-third—that is, 14 billion cubic meters for Sudan and 7 billion for Egypt. Egypt's annual share of the Nile waters would thus become 55 billion cubic meters.

The same facts show that Egypt undertook full responsibility for building the dam. It even compensated Sudan for the lands that were submerged by the waters of Lake Nasir. This means that Egypt undertook full financial responsibility for the dam and compensated Sudan in order to obtain 7 billion cubic meters of the Nile waters. Sudan, which paid none of the dam's cost, gets 14 cubic meters.

Egypt was not naive or helpless in doing that. Rather, it was responding to the eternal fact in which it believes and on which it acts—that there is no difference between the northern and southern parts of the valley and that the sons of the north are brothers of those of the south.

These are some, but not all, of the facts that depict the relationship and its nature in one of its numerous aspects—that pertaining to the Nile and water.

What does "Imam Shaykh" Dr. Hasan al-Turabi want, he and the "executive authority" which puts the decisions he makes in his "dark room" into effect, without pausing to consider the risks they involve or their different, fabricated, and even "suspect" nature?

It seems that "Shaykh Dr. Imam Hasan" is spoiling for a fight; he is seeking a "fight" with Egypt.

The man leaves no "well" without poisoning its water, even if the only one drinking from that well are the Sudanese people themselves. He did it with the Egyptian schools in Sudan, in which brother Sudanese were getting their educations. He did it in the name of Sudanization, as though this Sudanization is a creed, a religion, or a language.

He did it the day he decided to seize the branch of Cairo University in Khartoum and sequestered its buildings and all its contents. That university was originally established to serve the brothers there. He did it when he turned to the diplomatic representation and decided to close the Egyptian consulates in al- Ubayyid and Port Sudan.

Before that, he tried to change the international borders unilaterally the day he acted in Hala'ib as though it was purely Sudanese territory. He invited Canadian and Japanese companies to go there and prospect for oil. He did it the day he expelled the workers of the Egyptian Manganese Company and closed the company's doors.

This line of conduct, these incidents, and the approach al-Turabi and his executive apparatus, as represented by the lieutenant general's government, appear frivolous. But a second look reveals bigger and more serious dimensions. The closure of schools, universities, the Nile observatory stations, the Egyptian Irrigation Ministry's rest houses, and the consulates, plus the earlier attempt to create a border dispute that would develop into a military or semimilitary confrontation, all fall under the same category and have one goal: To sever all Egyptian-Sudanese links, provoke hatred and malice in the hearts of the people in the northern and southern parts of the valley instead of love, amity, and understanding, and to arouse Sudanese public opinion and steer it toward a big external target involving dignity and identity in schools and universities; the national soil of the homeland in Hala'ib and Shalatayn; and life and livelihood, as represented in the Nile waters.

Al-Turabi's mobilization is done in a tactical and escalatory manner. He chooses one specific target after the other and picks the time he deems fit to carry out his internal, regional, and external schemes. After that, the stage will be set for his grand scheme, which will come through a major and more serious adventure. He tried to start this adventure the day Khartoum attempted to act unilaterally in Hala'ib, concluding an exploration contract and expelling Egyptian personnel there. My guess is that in his calculations and estimates, al-Turabi thought then that Egypt would get mad and declare an all-out war, but he was disappointed. As a result, he resorted to "tactical measures" with the apparent view of "provoking" Egypt to act irrationally, such as Sudanizing

schools, terminating the presence of Egyptian universities, closing down consulates, and seizing the headquarters and houses of the Irrigation Ministry. Such "tactical measures" are, I believe, outdated. Today, he is heading for his major adventure. As is known, playing with fire is a dangerous thing. Playing with fire approaches the "taboos" that concern the lives of others. In our context, it means the Nile and its water. Al-Turabi knows very well that such an "adventurous" and dangerous approach would be just a game that would lead him nowhere, for thousands of reasons. Some are legal and international and others relate to matters of capability, control and work tools [adawat tahakkum wa 'amal], finance, and the last one concerns the "defense of life and homeland." I do not want to talk about the last one, because I believe it is far-fetched.

Probably "al-Turabi's major game" is to get rid of south Sudan and leave it to become independent and join the black African and Christian club south of the Sahara, while keeping northern Sudan "ethnically and religiously cleansed." It is the same as the Zionist-Jewish theory and the Serbian theory of a state racially and religiously purified in full. But there are tens of thousands of soldiers from the valiant Sudanese Army who fought for many years in defense of a unified Sudan. There are also Army officers, his own partners, who waged the "salvation revolution" and made him the "spiritual leader" with absolute power and authority. These officers, led by Lieutenant General al-Bashir, have taken part in the unification war to stop the secession and its conspiracies. People who have sacrificed their sons to defend the unity and integrity of the soil cannot go along with such "racist" notions as those pursued by al-Turabi in the name of "Islamic Internationalism," nor with ethnic and religious purity. Nobody can betray the blood of martyrs or deny the noblest sacrifices. Without that, there is nothing left for the shaykh but to provoke Egypt and approach the water taboo; and perhaps Egypt will react to his provocation, fall into his trap, and decide to put an end to these absurd, childish, and suspicious acts. Then mobilization at the border would start, Sudan's troops in the south could be pulled back to confront "Egypt the aggressor" threatening the Sudanese homeland! Then, he could hold Egypt responsible. He could distract Egypt and draw its attention away from its major development efforts for progress and welfare at home. This would hinder Egypt's role in the region and the continent in making peace and building bridges of cooperation and growth, and would disrupt its international role as a partner in drafting a new world order based on democracy, equal rights, and equal cooperation. For, chaos is the only atmosphere in which al-Turabi and his "groups" could live and expand, even if this expansion costs the bodies of people and the debris of destroyed and ruined cities.

The question is: If these are the intentions and schemes of the spiritual leader, what about the views of the lieutenant general [al-Bashir] and his team, if they still have any say or any decisions to make? But that is another story.

Libya

Al-Muntasir on Lockerbie, Tunis Summit, Yemen

PM0606144294 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 6 Jun 94 p 4

[Interview with 'Umar al-Muntasir, secretary of the Libyan General People's Committee for External Liaison and International Cooperation (foreign minister), by Sawsan Abu-Husayn in Cairo; date not given]

[Text] [Abu-Husayn] Do you believe there are on the horizon encouraging signs of a peaceful solution to the Lockerbie crisis?

[Al-Muntasir] The Lockerbie crisis will be resolved peacefully. There is no alternative. It is difficult to set a date for that now. But we are seeking to achieve it as soon as possible. What remains now is to agree on the foundations for a solution with the Western parties within the framework of some points proposed by the Arab League. I spoke with Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid on the sidelines of the Nonaligned Movement [NAM] conference and agreed that the seven-member committee should convene after the African summit scheduled to be held in Tunis within days. We will discuss the two resolutions adopted by the NAM and the African conference and ways of implementing them, especially as NAM ministers welcomed Libya's acceptance of Security Council Resolution 731 and stressed the need for the parties concerned to secure a just settlement that safeguards all interests in accordance with international law and the principles of the UN Charter. Furthermore, the international community and its organizations are showing solidarity with us vis-a-vis the negative results caused by the embargo imposed on the country. This is why there is an inclination to urge the Security Council to take account of the Arab League's new proposal.

[Abu-Husayn] On what basis are the Western parties responding to a peaceful solution with Libya?

[Al-Muntasir] There is a Western inclination to ignore a peaceful solution with Libya, especially as its moderate policy no longer threatens world security and peace. It is always trying to find a just way out that meets commitment to international laws. Best proof of this is Libya's full withdrawal from the Aozou strip [Chad], even though this is not in Libya's interests. That is, we lost the legal case but preferred to fully respect the court's decision, while we see the major states advocating international legitimacy and yet they refuse to comply with it in numerous cases.

[Abu-Husayn] What about the status of your relations with Chad at present?

[Al-Muntasir] Relations with Chad and between the two peoples are deep-rooted, and there are numerous common interests to which brother leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and President Deby will devote their

interest in the stage ahead. I have assurances that they [relations] will move toward the better from now on, contrary to what some people expect.

It is worth noting here that NAM ministers described the agreement concluded between the Republic of Chad and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah on the implementation of the International Court of Justice's decision as a positive contribution to reinforcing the NAM's unity.

[Abu-Husayn] What about the Security Council? Will it take account of this commitment by Libya and thus allow the gradual lifting of the embargo imposed on your country, especially as it allowed UN observers to use planes to travel to the Aozou strip?

[Al-Muntasir] That step is regarded as a good precedent in the United Nations, and we hope it will be a good gesture and a good start for further steps toward lifting the embargo on Libya. I personally am optimistic in this connection.

[Abu-Husayn] The African summit will be held in the Tunisian capital in a few days. Has Libya submitted a request to the United Nations to allow Libyan President Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to use his plane to fly to Tunis?

[Al-Muntasir] We will participate in the proceedings of the African summit. But so far we have not submitted a request to exempt the brother leader from the blockade. I believe that it is difficult for him to participate in the proceedings of any international conferences until the blockade has been lifted on the country. But as a Libyan citizen, he can go to Egypt and Tunisia through well-known means, namely by land.

[Abu-Husayn] What issue will Libya include on the Tunis summit's agenda?

[Al-Muntasir] The Lockerbie issue is our main issue. It will be raised in the framework of the demand for lifting the blockade, taking account of the NAM resolution and the Arab League's resolution.

[Abu-Husayn] What is your impression of the NAM proceedings' results?

[Al-Muntasir] I think the movement is destined to continue, especially as the recent conference was more positive with regard to correcting some conditions—which will nudge it in the direction it was following in the days of Presidents al-Nasir, Nehru, and Tito.

[Abu-Husayn] A final question about Yemen: What about the Libyan position, especially after the resolution adopted by the Security Council?

[Al-Muntasir] Libya has announced its position from the outset, namely to safeguard Yemen's unity and declare a cease-fire. Because unity cannot be achieved by force or by arms. We believe that a halt to the fighting is fundamental in order to safeguard unity. President al-Qadhdhafi's contacts with President 'Abdallah Salih and 'Ali Salim al-Bid are moving in that direction, in order to safeguard Yemen's unity.

[Abu-Husayn] Will you recognize the southern state?

[Al-Muntasir] We are talking about unity.

[Abu-Husayn] What are the latest developments in the Libyan position on the peaceful settlement in the Middle East? Do you still reject the Gaza-Jericho agreement?

[Al-Muntasir] We do not reject the peace agreement in the Middle East. We object to Israel's noncompliance with the peace process and demand that the international community adopt just stands on its policy toward the Arab states and its daily and organized aggression on Lebanon and in the other occupied Arab territories in the West Bank and the Golan. [passage omitted]

Arabs, Foreigners To Register at Security Centers

LD0506220294 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 5 Jun 94

[Text] The General People's Committee for Justice and General Security announces that a process to compile and register names of Arab brothers living in the Great Jamahiriyah has begun. It is in implementation of the provisions of Law No. 3 for 1423 [1994] on the people's committees and Article Four of the Security and Police Law.

Based upon that, all Arab brothers living inside the Great Jamahiriyah are requested to go to their local popular security centers, according to their place of residence, to implement the registration procedures.

The General People's Committee for Justice and General Security urges all Arab brothers residing in the Great Jamahiriyah to complete these procedures in order to organize their economic, professional, handicraft, and trade activities, or their work for popular sectors and others.

No facilities will be made for those who do not register their residence in the popular security center of their district and will be subject to measures outlined by legislation in force.

The last date for registration will be at the end of the month of Hanibal [August].

The General People's Committee for Justice and General Security also announces that the process to compile and register names of foreigners residing in the Great Jamahiriyah has begun. It is in implementation of Article Two of the provisions of law No. 3, 1423 [after the Prophet's birth] concerning people's committees, and Article Four of the Security and Police Law.

Based on that, all foreigners living in the Great Jamahiriyah are requested to head to local popular security centers in their place of residence to implement these procedures.

All measures related to any of them performing any professional, handicraft, or trade activities, or continuing to work for general popular sectors will be stopped if they do not present proof or registration in the authorized security center. In addition, they will be subject to other punishments outlined by legislation in force.

The last date for registration is the end of the month of Hanibal, 1423.

Morocco

Filali To Reshuffle Cabinet; Opposition Not Included

LD0606132994 Rabat MAP in English 1237 GMT 6 Jun 94

[Text] Rabat, Jun. 06 (MAP)—The newly-appointed Moroccan Premier Abdellatif Filali will partially reshuffle the present cabinet, 'AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT' daily Monday reported. Such a hypothesis is plausible, because Filali did not ask leaders of political parties to participate in the future government, during his consultations with these parties last week, the daily explained.

According to the daily, Filali expressed during the consultations some ideas on a government of national consensus, the consolidation of dialog between the government and the parliament and proposed a political and social truce to pave the way for a coming phase in which the opposition can participate in the government, the daily added. The newly-appointed premier confirmed to political parties that he will work for the consolidation of the role of the prime minister which means, according to 'AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT', that Filali will actually assume all his tasks as premier. Filali will propose the list of the new cabinet to King Hassan II next Wednesday, the daily said.

Leaders of opposition parties, namely those of the Istiqlal Party and the Socialist Union of Popular Forces had told the daily that they would not participate in the Filali government and expressed a reserved optimism as to the possibility to open up the channels of 'a different dialog' between the government and the opposition.

The daily said that the opposition parties will present a joint memorandum to Filali expressing their viewpoint on the questions raised during the consultations.

Sudan

'Source' Admits Egyptian Irrigation Team Denied Entry

NC0606141394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1230 GMT 6 May 94

[Text] Khartoum, 6 Jun (MENA)—An official Sudanese source admitted today that an Egyptian irrigation delegation was recently denied entry to Sudan. The source justified this by saying the delegation came to Khartoum on its own initiative, not at the invitation of the Sudanese Government.

Sudan had invited irrigation experts in Egypt to discuss a number of cooperation projects between the two countries, but it did not allow the delegation to enter and gave no reason. The delegation returned on the same plane.

It is known that Sudan recently seized a number of buildings where Egyptian irrigation engineers lived in the Sudanese capital.

Yemen

Sanaa Agrees to Cease-Fire Beginning Midnight 6 Jun

NC0606143694 Paris AFP in English 1429 GMT 6 Jun 94

[Text] Sanaa, June 6 (AFP)—The Yemeni Government has agreed to observe a ceasefire from midnight (2100 GMT) on Monday [6 June], Foreign Minister Muhammad Basindwah announced.

He told reporters the government had informed UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali and Arab League Chief 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid that "a ceasefire will start from midnight tonight."

Northern Forces Blast Aden as Cease-Fire Collapses

NC0706080794 Paris AFP in English 0749 GMT 7 Jun 94

[By Maher Chmaytelli]

[Excerpt] Aden, Yemen, June 7 (AFP)—Artillery duels erupted between Yemen's northern and southern forces and shells rained down on Aden airport Tuesday [7 June] as fighting shattered a ceasefire only six hours after it came into force.

The truce, declared unilaterally by President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's government in the capital Sanaa, had come into effect at midnight (2100 GMT) but firing had gone on unabated right up to the deadline.

Salih forces and those of the southern breakaway state declared by 'Ali Salim al-Bid began shelling each other at 6:00 a.m. (0300 GMT) on a battle front just 20 kilometres (12 miles) from this city.

The collapse of the ceasefire was followed by an intense artillery bombardment of the area around the airport, which the northerners have been targeting to destroy it as a base for southern planes.

But southern fighter-bombers were still taking off on combat missions, as a military spokesman accused Salih's troops of launching a widespread offensive on all fronts.

He said the onslaught had begun at midnight "the very moment he (Salih) was announcing to the world he had declared a ceasefire."

The northerners were "lying" and had dispatched columns of tanks to several of the war fronts shortly after the truce was announced, he charged.

The breakaway southern state was still committed to the ceasefire: "all we are doing is defending ourselves and repulsing the northern offensive," he said.

As the ceasefire collapsed, Sanaa Radio broadcast messages to the population of Aden saying "the hour of liberation has come."

The United Nations Security Council called on June 1 for an immediate ceasefire in the civil war which erupted on May 5 between north and south, four years after they were unified. The former South Yemen proclaimed itself independent again on May 21. [passage omitted]

North Reported To Advance on Aden

NC0706110594 Paris AFP in English 1018 GMT 7 Jun 94

[Excerpt] Aden, Yemen, June 7 (AFP)—Northern Yemeni troops advanced closer to the south's bastion of Aden in a snap offensive on Tuesday [7 June] and four people died and more than 40 were wounded in shelling as a ceasefire collapsed, correspondents reported.

Northern forces loyal to President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih captured the Sabr village 20 kilometers (12 miles) north of Aden in a push which took them several kilometres (miles) closer to the city, an AFP correspondent witnessed at the front line.

Southern Lieutenant Muhammad Husayn accused the Sanaa authorities of using the ceasefire, announced unilaterally by Salih's government late Monday, to mass troops and tanks in preparation for the dawn advance.

There were heavy artillery exchanges as southern forces tried to halt the northern tank offensive. [passage omitted]

Baghdad Reports North Attack at 'Separatists' Airport

JN0706115894 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1035 GMT 7 Jun 94

[Text] Sanaa, 6 Jun (INA)—Yemeni aircraft yesterday bombarded two Ilyushin cargo planes which were unloading military cargoes at the separatists' al-Riyan airport in the Hadhramaut Governorate, eastern Yemen.

In statements broadcast in Sanaa last night, an authorized Yemeni source said that Yemeni aircraft blasted the two planes while in pursuit of separatist aircraft which were carrying out aggressive raids against citizens and vital and economic installations in the Ma'rib and Shabwah governorates.

The source said that the aircraft affiliated with the command of the Yemeni forces chased the separatists' planes to their landing positions at al-Riyan airport in the Hadramaut governorate, hitting many of them.

In a separate development, informed Yemeni sources said that the legitimate Yemeni forces yesterday took control of vital areas and inflicted big losses on fortifications inside Aden.

In statements to the Yemeni television last night, the sources revealed that the personnel of the Aden garrison—the Salah al-Din camp—have surrendered to the legitimate forces along with their weapons, including armored vehicles, artillery, and anti-aircraft guns.

Yemeni military sources did not mention the positions near Aden where the legitimate Yemeni forces are stationed.

Sanaa Official: Southern Jets Attack Northern Forces

NC0706083994 Paris AFP in English 0820 GMT 7 Jun 94

[Text] Sanaa, June 7 (AFP)—Southern Yemeni warplanes flying from Aden airport attacked northern forces all along the front line around the southern port city from daybreak Tuesday [7 June], Yemeni Planning Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani said.

The planes were attacking northern positions from Little Aden, just west of the main city, to Lahij to the north, "continuously bombarding the whole front," he said.

"This is a violation of the ceasefire," announced by the Sanaa authorities late Monday, al-Iryani said.

The ceasefire took effect midnight Monday (2100 GMT) but collapsed six hours later.

Al-Iryani said the Sanaa government would inform UN Secretary-General Butrus Butrus-Ghali about the southern air raids "immediately."

Asked whether the northern forces were firing back, al-Iryani said "I presume so."

A correspondent in Aden said northern artillery was pounding the airport and surrounding area for the third straight day in an attempt to prevent it being used as a base for the warplanes.

North's Oil Installations Attacked

NC0706095394 Paris AFP in English 0854 GMT 7 Jun 94

[Text] Sanaa, June 7 (AFP)—Southern Yemeni warplanes have attacked northern oil installations for the first time since the civil war began a month ago, Western oil industry sources in Sanaa said Tuesday [7 June].

The southerners had vowed to retaliate after Aden's oil refinery was bombed on Sunday and storage tanks set ablaze.

A Western oil official said that two planes dropped bombs near one of the facilities in the Ma'rib oil field in north eastern Yemen early Monday but there was no damage.

The official news agency SABA' said the attack by southern warplanes was "unsuccessful" and that the jets were driven off by northern jets.

The oil company Yemen Hunt Oil, a local subsidiary of the Dallas-based Hunt Oil, is still operating in the Ma'rib field neighboring the Shabwah region.

The Ma'rib zone produces 320,000 bpd, nearly all of Yemen's output.

North Accuses South of Violating Cease-Fire

JN0706083694 Amman Radio Jordan in English 0800 GMT 7 Jun 94

[Text] A top Yemeni official has said that southern warplanes bombarded government forces this morning, violating an hours' old unilateral cease-fire aimed at ending Yemen's civil war.

Planning Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani told the press that Aden aircraft were bombarding all around since 6 AM this morning. Mr. al-Iryani declined to say whether the reported bombardment meant the government would now consider the open-ended cease-fire invalidated. He also declined to comment on reports from Aden that gunfire was heard coming from outside the city as early as 3 AM. All he said was that when jets fly over troops, they will have to fire back.

The cease-fire declared by the Yemeni Government in coping with last week's UN Security Council resolution on Yemen went into effect at midnight last night. In announcing the unilateral cease-fire last night, the Yemeni Foreign Minister Muhammad Salim Basindwah warned that tacit support for the separatists could reignite the fighting.

Sanaa 'Source' Warns YSP Against Violation

JN0706110394 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 7 Jun 94

[Statement by "a military source"; place and date not given]

[Text] While our brave Armed Forces—the forces of unity and legitimacy—have fully complied with the declaration of cease-fire on all axes as of 2400 yesterday [6 June], in implementation of Security Council Resolution 924, the rebellious separatist gang, led by the [Yemeni] Socialist Party [YSP], violated the cease-fire resolution and continued its aggression against our Armed Forces. The aircraft affiliated with this criminal gang this morning carried out aggressive raids against our Armed Forces positions on all axes.

The source warned against this violation of the cease-fire by the rebellious separatist gang, which constitutes blatant defiance of the international will and reflects the adventurous aggressive behavior of this separatist rebellious gang.

Aden Radio Reports Successes of Southern Forces

North's Assault on Shabwah Repulsed

EA0606185594 Aden Democratic Republic of Yemen Radio Network in English 1600 GMT 6 Jun 94

[Text] A military communique released by the [word indistinct] command in Shabwah Governorate mentioned that the Armed Forces of the DRY [Democratic Republic of Yemen], supported by the masses and tribes, are repelling the attacks carried out by the Sanaa regime.

The communique said that the Armed Forces of the DRY during the last few days inflicted on the (?launching) force and destroyed seven tanks, four artillery sets, and three Katyusha vehicles. There were 65 killed and more than 200 injured.

Fierce Fighting Reported on All Fronts

EA0606185494 Aden Democratic Republic of Yemen Radio Network in English 1600 GMT 6 Jun 94

[Text] A communique by the Armed Forces of the DRY [Democratic Republic of Yemen] has announced that the Sanaa military regime has continued its aggression on the peaceful villages and residential headquarters and the vital economic establishments. Last night, surface-to-surface missiles were launched on some residential quarters in Aden, and their shrapnel fell and injured several innocent persons. Fierce fighting also took place between our forces and the aggressive forces at all battlefronts. Our forces stopped the advances of the enemy and inflicted on them heavy losses.

Destroyed Vehicles Listed

EA0606162094 Aden Democratic Republic of Yemen Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 6 Jun 94

[Text] We have received the following from the Defense Ministry: Our forces have repulsed desperate and aggressive assaults mounted by the forces of the ruling military regime in Sanaa on various fronts. Our Armed Forces dealt crushing blows against the enemy forces in the following areas: On the Abyan axis they destroyed eight tanks and three (Daskas), and captured five tanks. On the Tawr al-Bahah/Khara axis they destroyed eight tanks and three (Daska) vehicles, and captured four tanks. Meanwhile, our forces are continuing, with rare courage, to repulse the forces of aggression on all fronts. God is great. God is great.

Two Northern Warplanes Said Downed

EA0606185094 Aden Democratic Republic of Yemen Radio Network in English 1600 GMT 6 Jun 94

[Text] An official source at the Ministry of Defense of the DRY [Democratic Republic of Yemen] gave a statement. It said that our anti-aircraft defenses repelled the air raid by the Sanaa regime warplanes, launched on several vital economic installations this morning. It also said that our defenses shot down two attacking warplanes. One of them was seen as it was falling down into the Gulf of Aden, while the other fell down in a desert area.

Downing of 3d Aircraft Noted

EA0606204094

[Editorial report] Aden Democratic Republic of Yemen Radio Network in Arabic at 1800 GMT on 6 June broadcasts a report on an Aden Defense Ministry "military statement," which summarizes certain combat activities carried out by the "Democratic Republic of Yemen" on 6 June.

The report says that a military statement, issued by the Aden Defense Ministry, explains that Sanaa today continued to target residential quarters, villages, towns, and vital economic installations, and that all the attacks were resisted. It says that on the al-'Anad/Kharaz front, 25 tanks were destroyed, five were captured and there were "hundreds of dead, wounded, and captured." Details from fighting on the Abyan front and the downing of two planes are also given.

"Our air defenses also responded to a second air raid, carried out by enemy forces late this afternoon, which also targeted certain vital economic installations," the statement adds. "Our ground-based air defenses shot down one of the hostile aircaft. The authorities are now searching for the pilot, who is probably a non-Yemeni".

League Envoy Denies Sanaa Shelled Aden Oil Refinery

NC0606164794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1545 GMT 6 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 6 Jun (MENA)—Ahmad Muhammad Luqman, permanent representative of the Republic of Yemen to the Arab League, has denied news agency reports that warplanes bombed storage tanks in the Aden oil refinery in south Yemen.

In a statement made today, the Yemeni ambassador said such an attack is not part of Sanaa's military strategy. He explained that since the outbreak of war, Sanaa has been eager to keep all vital and civilian installations in the southern governorates away from military operations.

UN Chief Comments on Resolution on Yemen Crisis

NC0706074894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0607 GMT 7 Jun 94

[Text] Cairo, 7 Jun (MENA)—UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali has expressed his hope that UN envoy to Yemen al-Akhdar Ibrahimi will succeed in convincing the Yemeni parties to implement the Security Council resolution on the Yemeni crisis.

In an interview with the Voice of Arabs Radio today, he described the Security Council resolution on the crisis in Yemen as a positive step. He emphasized that if each side insists on its stand, the issue may be put forth to the Security Council again for the necessary decisions.

Basindwah on Cease-Fire Decision, GCC Stand

JN0606181194 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1710 GMT 6 Jun 94

[Report by Ahmad Birru from Sanaa]

[Excerpt] Yemen has informed the UN secretary general and the Arab League secretary general that it has decided to observe a cease-fire as of midnight tonight. This was announced by Yemeni Foreign Minister Muhammad Basindwah who also said that the statement issued by the foreign ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] countries in Abha yesterday was not cordial toward his country, and does not help in implementing the UN Security Council resolution. After criticizing any outside interference in Yemeni affairs, Basindwah said he hopes that the neighboring countries will review their stands as it is in these countries' interest to be on the side of legitimacy, or at least to adopt a stand of neutrality. He said that the Gulf stand will encourage the southerners not to respect the international resolution.

In reply to a question on a possible Saudi military intervention in Yemen, Basindwah said he believes that it will not reach the extent of military interference. He added that he has summoned the GCC ambassadors to inform them about Yemen's indignation at the Abha statement.

As for what Sanaa will do if the proclaimed Democratic Republic of Yemen [DRY] wins recognition, Basindwah said that Yemeni unity was attained by the Yemeni people, and recognition will not change anything with respect to the existence of a legitimate Yemeni state.

Basindwah said that the Yemeni officials held no contacts with any Gulf country since the decision [proclaiming the establishment of the DRY] was issued. [passage omitted]

Foreign Ministry Protests to GCC Member States

JN0606185394 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 6 Jun 94

[Text] The Foreign Ministry summoned at noon today the ambassadors of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Sultanate of Oman, and the United Arab Emirates, as well as the Kuwaiti charge d'affaires, and handed them memorandums protesting the content of the final statement issued at the end of the 51st session of the Ministerial Council of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] on the Republic of Yemen.

The memorandums say that the Government of the Republic of Yemen views the statement as interference in our country's domestic affairs and as hostility to Yemen's unity, which was established peacefully and by the free will of the people throughout the Yemeni homeland on 22 May 1990, as reflected by the general popular referendum on the Yemeni Constitution on 16 May 1991 and as reinforced by the free and fair parliamentary elections on 27 April 1993. Therefore, no person or persons can be allowed to impose any form of division, fragmentation, or cutting off of any part of the country to establish a state on it whenever a declaration or a decision conflicting with the Constitution and the law is issued.

These memorandums point to our government's regret about these positions and statements by fraternal and neighboring states, which contributed to the adoption of Security Council Resolution No. 924, and state that such positions and statements will hamper the implementation of the resolution. Copies of these memorandums were sent to the Arab League secretary general and the UN secretary general.

An official source has stated that this position taken by five GCC member states will encourage the remnants that have rebelled against the constitutional legitimacy to refuse to comply with the cease-fire resolution.

Salih Addresses Political Parties on Fighting

JN0606191194 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 6 Jun 94

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, today met with the brother leaders of the political parties and organizations in the national arena.

They discussed many issues about the Yemeni homeland and safeguarding its unity. They also considered developments in the national arena in light of the war ignited in the homeland by both the secessionist gang and the rebellion and in view of the declaration of secession made by the traitor and agent al-Bid, and also in light of issuing UN Security Council Resolution 924 on the situation in Yemen, and in view of the final statement issued by the meetings of the foreign ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council on the situation in our country, in addition to the speech delivered by Saudi Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal on Yemen.

The brother chairman indicated the importance of this meeting which groups the political parties and organizations in the national arena, so they can responsibly rise to national duty in terms of confronting the schemes hostile to unity. He said: We are meeting under the extremely important and crucial circumstances through which the Yemeni homeland is passing. This homeland is now experiencing severe regrettable events fabricated by the rebellious secessionists in order to involve the homeland's sons in fighting and implement their secessionist scheme.

The brother chairman reviewed the scenario and aspects of the destructive secessionist plan that have brought the homeland to the point it is at. He also pointed to the fact that this gang stockpiled weapons, vehicles, and military hardware, fabricated crises in the homeland, and ultimately exploded the situation militarily and caused fighting between the homeland's sons and their Armed Forces in Abyan and later in Harf Sufyan, Shabwah, 'Imran, Dhamar, and Aden in addition to this gang's suspect moves abroad in order to evoke others' hostility to both Yemen and its unity.

The brother chairman asserted that this criminal secessionist gang in the [Yemeni] Socialist Party [YSP] leadership plotted against the YSP itself and against unity. He explained the concessions and sacrifices offered to prevent this gang from implementing its conspiracy against the homeland and unity. This gang either sought to unilaterally rule Yemen or fragment the homeland and reinstate the partition to achieve its own narrow interests, he added.

The brother chairman said: We sought dialogue and its continuation in order to keep the homeland away from war. This gang, however, continued to implement its criminal scheme by igniting war and imposing it on the homeland in order to shatter unity. We were thus forced into defending the homeland and confronting the scheme designed to fragment it.

The brother president explained that the Yemeni unity was realized through peaceful and democratic means, and was not imposed by force. He said this unity is an expression of the free will of the Yemeni people, demonstrated in the referendum on the Republic of Yemen's Constitution and the elections of 27 April 1993, and the setting up of constitutional establishments. The Yemeni people have always been one people who stick to their unity, and they will not relinquish it because they are aware of the consequences of separation, and they have paid a high price during past divisive conflicts.

He added that the secessionist and rebellious gang dreamt of restoring its dictatorial and totalitarian rule. It does not accept democracy or participation with others, and it does tolerate different opinions. Therefore, it sought to circumvent democracy and the results of the legitimate and constitutional elections.

The brother Presidential Council chairman emphasized that the Republic of Yemen's policy is that of democracy and political pluralism, freedom of the press, respect of human rights, and building of modern civilian establishments, free economy, and social justice.

He said this policy will not be relinquished, and will continue to be the choice to which we will adhere to embody the aspirations for building a new Yemen, the pillars of which we laid down on 22 May 1990, and there will never be a return to the totalitarian separatist system.

The brother Presidential Council chairman urged leaders of parties and political organizations to close national ranks, and form a broad national front in which efforts are mobilized to confront the challenges imposed on the homeland, its unity, and sovereignty.

He said building and protecting the homeland is everyones responsibility, and that we should unite and rise above all differences and sensitivities of the past in order to keep the dangers away from the homeland and safeguard its unity, and support all nationalist constants.

The brother president expressed appreciation for the nationalist and responsible position of the political parties and organizations, unions, popular organizations, and all political and social figures in the national arena for confronting the secessionist plan and their rejection of al-Bid's separatist proclamation, and their support in face of the elements and perpetrators of this plan.

He said the challenge the Yemeni homeland faces at present is the real test of all the homeland's sons, led by political parties and organizations, in order to prove the credibility of positions and commitment to national responsibility.

The brother president hailed the heroic performance of our valiant Armed Forces, the forces of unity and legitimacy, which respond to the people's will with high nationalist determination to defend unity and democracy, and safeguard the constitutional legitimacy, security, and stability in the homeland.

Lahij Governor Vows To Implement Projects

JN0506073794 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 5 Jun 94

[Text] Lahij Governor brother 'Awad 'Abdallah Ba Matraf yesterday received the brother residents of al-Hutah, who expressed their happiness and jubilation with this meeting and welcomed the brother governor. They noted the service projects required by their city after normalcy has been restored, and after they have been rid of the iron fist, and domination of the criminal secessionist gangs once and for all. They reiterated their support for constitutional legitimacy, as well as their willingness to defend Yemeni unity, and cooperate with the governorate officials to implement the necessary projects in their governorate.

For his part, the brother governor affirmed that the state will strive to address the impact of the incidents caused by the secessionist and separatist elements. He added that the state is eager to implement all necessary and urgent projects. He noted that the governorate will witness the implementation of additional projects in the coming phase.

The brother Lahij governor visited several areas in the governorate, inquired about the well-being of the residents, and was briefed on the requirements and needs of the areas he visited.

House Committee Named To Discuss Developments

JN0706132894 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 7 Jun 94

[Excerpts] The House of Representatives met this morning in a session under Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar, the House speaker. [passage omitted]

The House set up a committee comprised of the following members: Ahmad 'Abdallah al-Hajri, Hasan

Muhammad al-Matari, 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Akwa', 'Abbas 'Ali Mu'ayyad, 'Abdallah 'Abdu Mahdi, Muhammad 'Abdallah (?al-Kilsi), Sultan Hizam al-'Atwani, Yahya Mansur Abu-Usba', 'Abdu Muhammad al-Janadi, and Muhammad Yahya Hammud al-Sharafi to discuss developments in our country and submit an urgent report to the House on the measures that should be taken by the parliament.

The people's deputies remarked that delegations should be set up with representatives from the parliament, the government, and some popular institutions and political organizations to leave for fraternal and friendly countries and to meet with Arab and world organizations to explain the events in the Yemeni arena.

The House will resume its meetings tomorrow, Wednesday, God willing.

Al-'Attar Confers With Red Cross Team

JN0506134794 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 5 Jun 94

[Text] This morning, Acting Prime Minister brother Dr. Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar received a delegation from the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] led by (Michelle Canio), the general ICRC delegate for Middle Eastern and North African affairs, and (Arthold Leotold), the regional ICRC commissioner for the Arabian Peninsula.

During the meeting, the delegation explained the ICRC's readiness to assist the Yemeni Red Cross and the Yemeni Government by dispatching medicines and medical supplies to face the extraordinary circumstances. The brother acting prime minister thanked the delegation for this aid and promised to facilitate its mission.

Deputy Prime Minister Receives Iranian Ambassador

JN0706141094 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 7 Jun 94

[Text] Brother Deputy Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Wahhab al-Anisi has received Mohammad Jalal Firuz-Nia, the Iranian ambassador in Sanaa. They discussed developments in the Yemeni arena, as well as relations between the two countries and means to develop them.

Bahrain Amir Cables Salih on Unity Anniversary

JN0706060694 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 7 Jun 94

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, has received a congratulatory cable from his brother Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, amir of the State of Bahrain, on the fourth anniversary of reunification and the establishment of the Republic of Yemen. The cable reads:

His Excellency brother 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Republic of Yemen:

On the national day of the sisterly Republic of Yemen, we are pleased to send to your excellency our heartfelt congratulations, asking the Almighty God to grant you good health and happiness and the Yemeni people wellbeing and prosperity.

The chairman of the Presidential Council sent a thank-you cable to his highness the amir of Bahrain.

Radio Reports Japan's Support for Unity, Democracy

JN0606065794 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 6 Jun 94

[Text] The Government of Japan has asserted its support for unity and democracy in the Yemeni Republic, regretting the exceptional situation our country is experiencing.

A press statement issued by the Press Office of the Japanese Foreign Ministry—a copy of which was given to the Yemeni News Agency, SABA', by the Japanese Embassy—said the Government of Japan welcomes the announcement of the government of the Yemeni Republic of its acceptance of Security Council Resolution 924, issued on 1 June, and its willingness to implement it.

The Government of Japan expressed its hope that all the parties concerned will respond to the Security Council resolution.

Qatari 'Reservations' Over GCC Statement Reported

JN0606064594 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 6 Jun 94

[Statement by "a responsible source" at the Foreign Ministry of the State of Qatar]

[Text] The State of Qatar has voiced support for the Security Council Resolution No. 924 on the situation in the Yemeni Republic and its constant position on the need to end the fighting between the Yemeni brothers and resort to dialogue to solve the problem. The State of Qatar, however, has voiced reservations over two paragraphs of the statement issued yesterday, 5 June 1994, at the end of the session of the Ministerial Council of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] on the situation in Yemen, because these two paragraphs do not refer to the legitimate name of the fraternal country, the Yemeni Republic, as mentioned in the Security Council resolution. In addition, the two paragraphs do not note the importance of preserving Yemen's unity that was set up by consent and public referendum.

Peace Body Condemns Arrest of Arab Nationals

JN0606194094 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 6 Jun 94

[Statement issued by the Yemeni Peace and Solidarity Council; place and date not given]

[Text] The Yemeni Peace and Solidarity Council is following with a great deal of dissatisfaction the rebellious gang's inhuman conduct toward fraternal Arabs who came to the Republic of Yemen in accordance with job contracts signed with official agencies in the educational, health, and other fields. This gang is arresting and torturing these nationals, and forcing them to make false confessions that they are engaged in alleged military actions. They are being portrayed as prisoners of war captured in the battlefield.

These criminal acts are manifestations of cheap blackmail. Similarly, they are lowly attempts to delude the world into believing that the countries of these innocent victims are involved in the Yemeni crisis. These cheap acts, and similar other criminal and inhuman acts, such as using the elderly, women, and children as human shields; dropping booby-trapped pens, toys, and sweets to kill innocent children; and using banned missiles of mass destruction run counter to all universal conventions. Likewise, they violate the Geneva conventions and their two supplementary protocols.

While denouncing these criminal acts, the Yemeni Peace and Solidarity Council urges all international organizations, and the International Committee of the Red Cross to condemn these violations of human values and principles, and international norms and conventions, as well. It also urges them to vindicate the Yemeni people and support them against the enemies of their unity, constitutional legitimacy, and democratic experiment.

Al-Bid Reportedly To Resign When War Ends

JN0606120594 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 6 Jun 94

[Text] 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party, has announced that he will resign once the war in Yemen ends and that he will call for new elections. In a press interview published today, al-Bid noted that people should not be dragged into the conflict. He said that President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih imposed on him a fait accompli after declaring war against the South on 27 April. Al-Bid added that he will never again take the hand of 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih.

Aden Radio Claims Sanaa Regime Facing 'Last Hours'

EA0606190394 Aden Democratic Republic of Yemen Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 6 Jun 94

[Excerpts] The Presidential Council of the Democratic Republic of Yemen has issued a call to the sons of the Yemeni people, in which it pointed out that there was irrefutable evidence that 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih is the one who is issuing orders to his forces to carry out barbarous acts in peaceful towns and villages. [passage omitted]

The call confirmed that Aden and every inch of the territory of the Democratic Republic of Yemen, which he imagined in his sick dreams he would control, were beyond him. The call said that it was time to get rid of this bloody regime, whose hands had been smeared by blood since he took control of the northern governorates. It appealed to the sons of our Yemeni people to assume their patriotic duties to destroy this malignant microbe, which had corrupted many aspects of life in all parts of the coutnry.

The call confirmed that the Sanaa regime was approaching its end and was facing its last hours. It called on citizens to cut off supplies to its forces, because they had become tired and exhausted, and because the regime had failed to achieve its promises to them that they would be in Aden within two days.

Al-Asnaj Welcomes Sanaa Cease-Fire Decision

NC0606213794 London MBC Television in Arabic 2112 GMT 6 Jun 94

[Text] The south Yemeni leaders this evening welcomed Sanaa's announcement of a cease-fire. 'Abdallah al-Asnaj, foreign minister of the Democratic Republic of Yemen [DRY] government that was formed in southern Yemen, said in a telephone interview we held with him this evening from Cairo that Aden will deal positively with the cease-fire decision.

[Begin recording] [Al-Asnaj] The DRY—government, people, and presidency—repeats its concern for halting the fighting in Yemen. It is only natural that we should welcome Sanaa's decision on the cease-fire, which will begin at midnight tonight. We hope that this decision will not be violated. On our part, we have released an official statement saying that the DRY welcomes this decision and will comply with the time proposed.

[Correspondent] Is the cease-fire decision linked to Sanaa's statement that it has tightened its control around Aden?

[Al-Asnaj] There is nothing to justify saying that control of Aden was, is, or will be tightened, God willing. Aden and the other governorates in the DRY and the nature of Yemen's sons will not surrender to invasion or occupation. Aden has well-known experience in rejecting and repulsing occupation. [end recording]

Al-Asnaj Calls For Isolating North's Officials

NC0506094494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0915 GMT 5 Jun 94

[Text] Cairo, 5 Jun (MENA)—'Abdallah al-Asnaj, who was recently appointed deputy prime minister and foreign minister in the Aden government, holds officials in Sanaa responsible for continuing the war and violating

Security Council Resolution 934, which stipulates an immediate cease-fire in Yemen.

In an exclusive statement to MENA, al-Asnaj called for isolating these officials regionally and internationally. He said: Giving them the feeling that there will be a decision to isolate them will make them accept the cease-fire unconditionally.

Al-Asnaj Urges Dispatch of International Observers

NC0706073494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0610 GMT 7 Jun 94

[Text] Cairo, 7 Jun (MENA)—'Abdallah al-Asnaj who has been appointed deputy prime minister and foreign minister in the Aden government has reiterated his country's commitment to implementing Security Council Resolution 924 on the crisis in Yemen.

In statements to Voice of the Arabs Radio today, he welcomed Sanaa's declaration of a cease-fire on all combat lines, noting the importance of a serious and actual commitment to the new date. He called for sending international observers to ensure that the cease-fire is not breached.

Al-Asnaj's statements are the first southern reaction to Sanaa's unilateral decision to cease fire as of midnight (?last night).

Al-'Attas Decries North's Attitude, War Plans

NC0706135494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1200 GMT 7 Jun 94

[Text] Cairo, 7 Jun (MENA)—Engineer Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, recently appointed head of the government in Aden, said that Sanaa has not abided by the cease-fire decision and continued its attack on Aden this morning, indiscriminately bombarding the southern residential areas.

At a news conference held in Cairo at noon today, al-'Attas played a recording of a message by Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih intercepted by the military command in Aden. In his message, President Salih instructed northern forces to advance toward the south, continue fighting, and disregard the UN Security Council cease-fire resolution, claiming that the Yemeni war is an internal issue.

Al-'Attas said that the people in Aden have joined the army to check northern aggression. He stressed that the north cannot settle military operations in its favor for several reasons, including the geographical vastness of south Yemen.

In his news conference, Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas said while Aden announced its readiness to receive the fact-finding mission and to facilitate its task for the sake of establishing peace in Yemen and resorting to dialogue in lieu of war and fighting, Sanaa refused to heed the UN Security Council resolution and the advice of the Arab leaders led by President Husni Mubarak, United Arab Emirates [UAE] President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan al Nuhayyan, Saudi King Fahd Bin- 'Abd-al-'Aziz, and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad.

Al-'Attas continued by saying that Sanaa has repeatedly declared its conditional acceptance of a cease-fire, but it has revoked this acceptance, using false excuses. These contradictory stands are adopted by Sanaa's various military, tribal, and extremist religious elements, al-'Attas added.

Al-'Attas pointed out that the military situation in Yemen has witnessed a serious flare up over the past 48 hours when Sanaa used all its destructive weapons, including missiles and long-range heavy artillery. He noted that residential areas and utilities have become targets of missiles, warplanes, and artillery.

He said that the bombardment and burning of the Aden refinery is the biggest crime yet, and has shaken the Arab and international world. He said that the population of al-Dali', Radfan, Lahij, al-Hiswah, al-Burayqah, al-Waht, Aden, and Khormaksar had to flee their homes lest they be used as human shields by what he calls the northern invading soldiers.

Abu-Bakr al-'Attas went on to say in his news conference that the northern soldiers have been misguided by the extremist Islamic groups led by those who claim to be religious such as 'Abd-al-Majid al-Zandani, 'Abd-al-Wahhab al-Uns, and 'Abd-al-Wahhab al-Dulaymi. He said that these men, who are also teachers of the jurisprudence in Islam, issued a fatwa in the name of 'Abd-al-Wahhab al-Dulaymi, a member of the Yemeni Reform Grouping which is a partner in the government coalition. The fatwa notes that the cease-fire is taboo, the killing of the inhabitants of Aden and the south, who are defending their rights, is permissible, and that the southern areas are considered booty.

Al-'Attas added that the world has witnessed the extent of the damage to coffee plantations in al-Dali' and Radfan and the wiping out of entire villages in the districts of Subayhi, Lahij, Shabwah, Abyan, and the outskirts of al-Hutah and Aden. He said that residential areas in Zinjibar, al-Hutah, Khormaksar, and Dar al-Amir have become "ghost towns."

He explained that the wounded are filling the hospitals and that Arab and foreign journalists have relayed images of the unprecedented crimes perpetrated against the south. He said he reviewed the details of this military escalation and what he described as "a war of extermination and total destruction" during his meetings with President Husni Mubarak, UAE President Shaykh Zayid Sultan, Saudi and Kuwaiti officials, and the Arab League secretary general.

Al-'Attas pointed out that Sanaa persistently refuses all appeals to stop the war, and is dropping missiles on the heads of the citizens in various southern areas, and

ruining the national economy under the pretext of maintaining the country's unity. He added that Sanaa is trying to maintain unity over lakes of blood and piles of corpses of innocent citizens of the Democratic Republic of Yemen [DRY] who are holding steadfast against the aggression.

Regarding the prospect of international recognition of the DRY, al-'Attas said that this is not the crucial issue now, the important thing is to end hostilities and to stop the bloodshed prior to negotiations with the northern leaders over an agenda.

Al-'Attas remarked that the Yemeni union was slaughtered by the current fighting. He pointed out that the Yemeni people, despite all this, still believe in the cause of unity but in another form that is based on mutual understanding and dialogue, not on guns and bullets.

He said that the people in south Yemen are open-minded and willing to discuss matters and many issues can be negotiated after the fighting stops.

Al-'Attas welcomed the dispatch of a UN observer force as a first step toward attaining peace and stability in the country.

He repeated his accusations that Iraq and Sudan are sending supplies and reinforcements to the northern forces.

Al-'Attas' news conference was attended by 'Abdallah al-Asnaj, recently appointed DRY deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Planning Minister Muhsin Muhammad Bin-Farid; and Transport and Communications Minister Salih 'Ubayd Ahmad.

Envoy Appointed to Poland To 'Facilitate' Arms Deals

PM0606132694 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 4 Jun 94 p 3

[Report by 'Abdallah Hammudah and Lutfi Shatarah: "Sanaa Appoints New Ambassador to Poland To Facilitate Conclusion of Arms Deals"]

[Excerpts] London—The new Yemeni ambassador, Sharaf al-Sa'idi, who was an under secretary at the Foreign Ministry, Aden branch, arrived in the Polish capital, Warsaw yesterday to assume his duties there. Charge D'Affaires Muhammad Sharaf has been withdrawn because of his objection to an arms deal the Sanaa leadership had intended to conclude with the two companies Senzen and Sezbex [as transliterated] one month before the war broke out in Yemen. [passage omitted]

Well-informed sources say that the most important task assigned to him [the new ambassador] is to facilitate the Military Economic Establishment's task of concluding arms deals with Warsaw. [passage omitted]

Aden Radio Reports Claims of Northern POW's

EA0606191494 Aden Democratic Republic of Yemen Radio Network in English 1600 GMT 6 Jun 94

[Text] Several of the war prisoners from the northern forces who were captured in Wadi Hadhramaut reported that they had been pushed into the lost war. They said that they surrendered after their commander had run away from the battle and left them without water. They also said they are from the central territories. They expressed happiness for the brotherly reception by the forces of the DRY [Democratic Republic of Yemen] after they had surrendered.

Deputy Finance Minister Appointed

EA0406194394 Aden Democratic Republic of Yemen Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 4 Jun 94

[Text] Republican Decree No. 3 for 1994 was issued today. It concerned appointing a deputy finance minister. The first article states that Brother Muhammad Salih al-Wali has been appointed deputy finance minister. The second article states that the decree is effective from the date of its issuance and is to be published in the official gazette.

Foreign Ministry Denies Soldiers Captured in Yemen

JN0706062094 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2040 GMT 6 Jun 94

[Statement issued by Foreign Ministry to INA]

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 6 Jun (INA)—The rebellious, separatist clique in Yemen has claimed that it has detained five Iraqi soldiers who were participating with the legitimate Yemeni forces in battles against the separatists. Reporting this allegation, the Saudi MBC television showed pictures of five Iraqi citizens, claiming that they were soldiers seized by the separatists in Yemen.

The Iraqi Foreign Ministry stresses that the five Iraqi citizens whose pictures appeared on the screen of Saudi MBC television as Iraqi soldiers are in fact civilian employees working under contract with the Yemeni Government. [passage omitted]

The Foreign Ministry spokesman said: By resorting to such fabrications and misleading reports, the gang of separatists in Yemen attempts to conceal suspect and dishonest objectives through which it tries to instigate certain parties against the legitimate authorities in Yemen and to harm Iraq. The documents kept by the Iraqi Foreign Ministry concerning the five Iraqi citizens—job contracts and passports—categorically refute the separatists' allegations.

Noting those facts and expressing readiness to give public and mass media access to those documents, the Iraqi Foreign Ministry appeals to the news media which have reported those allegations to be accurate and to refute, on the basis of those facts and documents, the separatists' lies and allegations. This is especially since the allegations are not the first attempt to mislead and deceive public opinion into believing that there are Iraqis fighting by the side of the legitimate Yemeni forces.

Holding the separatists responsible for the safety of those Iraqi citizens and their property, families, and rights, Iraq demands that they be released so that they can leave Yemen for Iraq. Reiterating its denial of those cheap, unfounded allegations which are refuted by categorical evidence, Iraq reaffirms its support for the unity of fraternal Yemen and its support for the legitimate, legal, and constitutional authority represented by the leadership of unified Yemen under President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. Iraq also condemns that treacherous crime of secession.

Daily Assails Saudi 'Plot' Against Yemeni Unity

JN0606182594 Baghdad AL-'IRAQ in Arabic 2 Jul 94 p 1

[Editorial: "The Saudi Regime's Record Is Replete With Conspiracy Against Yemen and its Unity"]

[Text] Agent Fahd's regime moves anew to strike at Yemen's unity, which has been the source of hope for the sons of Yemen generation after generation and also the desired objective of all the Arab masses that view Yemen's unity as a historic pan-Arab step toward a greater unity. As part of its conspiratorial and treacherous policy, the Fahd regime has adopted a disgraceful position by supporting the agent and renegade secessionists and trying to polish their image and present them to the international community as a party that is equal to the legitimate Yemeni authority. Thus, the Saudi regime made feverish moves in the Security Council through Fahd's ambassador in Washington Bandar Bin- Sultan, who is known for his cheap and exposed contacts with U.S. and Zionist intelligence organs before and after the 30-state aggression against Iraq. By its recent move in the Security Council, the Saudi regime, which has a disgraceful record of conspiracies against every Arab unionist project and every national authority, is adding a new act of treason to its innumerable acts of treason against the Arab nation's higher interests and is flagrantly revealing its plot to bring foreign forces to Yemen, just as it did in Hafar al-Batin before the aggression against Iraq. Saudi Arabia has been the principal enemy of every Arab unionist project. The Arabs will never forget how the ruling Saudi family plotted against Egyptian-Syrian unity and how it paid millions of dollars to mercenaries and traitors to undermine that unity and cancel the United Arab Republic.

Today, the recent past is repeating itself, and in the same way and through more wicked means, the agent regime in Riyadh is moving to destroy Yemeni unity, fragment Yemen, create differences, and ignite war among the sons of Yemen in order to satisfy its U.S., British, and Zionist masters.

The Yemeni people suffered greatly from the Saudi rulers' plots against the Yemeni revolution in 1962. That family fears that the Yemeni revolution may encourage masses in the Arabian peninsula to mobilize their energies, wipe out the agent regime, and end its hateful role in conspiring against the fateful Arab causes, including the Palestine question and a series of revolutions and uprisings in many arenas of the Arab East and Arab Maghreb.

After the revolution succeeded, despite the Saudi conspiracy, and the Yemeni people were able to preserve the republican system by offering many sacrifices in lives and money, the agent rulers in Riyadh went crazy and backed every plot to upset stability in Yemen and disrupt its people's unity.

Fahd, a cheap agent and offspring of a family with a long history of treason, will win nothing from his conspiratorial step and his treasonous moves except curses and eternal disgrace, and the Arab masses will continue to believe that the Yemeni unity and every other similar step will remain too strong to be harmed by the cowards, who have lost their pan-Arab identity and their national zeal and who have turned into mere dolls in the hands of the arch enemies of the Arab and Islamic nations.

Yemeni unity will remain an eternal reality amid the clamor caused by agents in the Security Council and their dirty games. Yemeni unity was established to last. This is the course of history despite agents like Fahd and his page, Bandar.

Foreign Minister on Embargo, Partition, Yemeni War

NC0606210494 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 3 Jun 94 p 4

[Report by Safwat Abu-Talib]

[Text] Iraqi Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf has stated that there are positive signs at the UN Security Council that might lead to the lifting of the blockade imposed on Iraq in the near future. In a statement to AL-JUMHURIYAH, he stressed that his country seeks to extend its hand to the neighboring Arab and non-Arab countries to coordinate their policies in the interest of the peoples, noting that this desire is at times rejected and at other times remains confined to contacts, as is the case between Iraq and Qatar and Oman.

Responding to a question on the reasons why Iraq refused to recognize Security Council Resolution 833 that defines the demarcation line and border posts between Iraq and Kuwait, al-Sahhaf said that this resolution did not include a provision requesting Iraq to recognize it. If it had included such a provision, we would not have hesitated to recognize it. He added: We agreed to and complied with Security Council Resolution 687 that outlined the conditions that must be met to lift the blockade. We have met all the conditions, as the ad hoc committee and the IAEA [International Atomic Energy Agency] have recognized. There is now a majority in the Security Council demanding that the embargo be lifted.

Al-Sahhaf said: Generally speaking, the Security Council requested Iraq to abolish the resolutions regarding Kuwait. We indeed abolished all the resolutions, including the one on the 19th Governorate. This revocation was outlined in official letters to the Security Council, which accepted them.

Commenting on Iraqi President Saddam Husayn assuming the post of prime minister in the recently formed cabinet, al-Sahhaf said: This decision was made in accordance with a proposal by the Revolutionary Command Council to help the Iraqi people deal with their suffering.

Responding to a question on the possibility of partitioning Iraq, al-Sahhaf said: Even if all other countries were to be partitioned, Iraq would never be partitioned under any circumstances because its social, economic, and cultural fabric have survived for more than 7,000 years. The best proof of this is the failure of the Kurdish gangs in northern Iraq to achieve the schemes drawn for them.

Regarding the future of the Nonaligned Movement, al-Sahhaf said: We agree with the view President Husni Mubarak proposed at his inaugural speech. We believe that there is a need to activate the movement and strengthen the bonds among its members to face the present and the future, particularly after the demise of the Soviet Union. A dialogue should be held between the Nonaligned Movement members and the countries of the north to prevent accumulation of the causes of conflict.

Responding to a question asking if Iraq seeks dialogue and respects its neighbors, why it does not respect international legitimacy, al-Sahhaf said: International legitimacy has substance and is not slogans. The firm substance of the international legitimacy is international law and the UN charter. Anything else is not international legitimacy.

Replying to a question on Iraq's position on the Yemeni war and on reports of Iraqi pilots' participation in the war, al-Sahhaf emphasized that there is no Iraqi pilot or soldier taking part in the Yemeni war. Anyone who says this has to prove it.

Regarding the Kuwaiti POW's in Iraq, al-Sahhaf said: In fact, there is no POW problem but a problem of missing people. Kuwait has 611 missing people and Iraq has more than 60,000 missing. We maintain that this humanitarian issue should be addressed in accordance with the Geneva agreements. The files we received from Kuwait through the Red Cross Committee affirm that they are missing. Every file that the Kuwaiti Government submitted has the word missing written on it. This issue will take a long time. We must not forget that the Americans still have missing personnel in Vietnam.

Trade Minister on Embargo, Saddam Premiership

JN0606105594 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 6 Jun 94 p 27

[Interview with Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih by Ahmad 'Abd-al-Majid in Baghdad; date not given]

[Text] ['Abd-al-Majid] Turkish officials have said Ankara is planning to open a trade route via Zakho after the 'Id al-Adha holiday. Others said this will happen after a month. What is your opinion?

[Salih] The Security Council resolutions do not close Iraq's borders with neighboring states. The embargo targets our oil exports. Iraqi merchants import foodstuffs from Turkey with hard currency. As for barter, it is currently not allowed.

['Abd-al-Majid] Iraq depends heavily on the Jordanian outlet in providing some of its food requirements. What is your assessment of the relationship between the two countries?

[Salih] The relationship between Jordan and Iraq is firm and is advancing steadily in the interest of the two peoples. I think there are huge prospects for expanding this relationship once the economic blockade is lifted. This is because the links and integration are there between the two economies. Lifting the blockade will allow for further expansion of ties.

['Abd-al-Majid] Jordan has expressed dissatisfaction with the inspection of al-'Aqabah-bound commercial vessels and said this is doing great economic harm to the country. Does this inspection have any negative impact on the Iraq's food imports?

[Salih] We have paid extra charges. Also, the high insurance rates imposed on some vessels and the smaller load they carry are additional obstacles.

['Abd-al-Majid] What is the effect of activating Iraqi ports in the south on trade activity?

[Salih] First of all, there are no restrictions on exports to Iraq via the ports of Umm Qasr, Khawr al-Zubayr, and al-Basrah. Our ports are open to receive vessels if they wish to come. Also, we have other ships laden with food supplies from Europe, Australia, and southeast Asia. These use the waterway from and to al-Basrah because there are no international restrictions on it.

['Abd-al-Majid] What about the Iraqi assets frozen in foreign banks?

[Salih] The United States and its allies are still practicing piracy against Iraqi assets and preventing us from using these assets to buy food and medical supplies, contrary to what the Security Council has allowed under Resolution 687. This behavior has denied Iraq a chance to provide some of the needs of the population.

Iraq had managed, under the instructions of the Security Council Embargo Committee, to purchase $250,000 worth of supplies before its assets were frozen again in September 1992. These food supplies were distributed by the ration card. We denounce the decision to prevent us from using our own frozen assets abroad and deem it an evil decision that reflects the disregard of the nations that control the Security Council for the norms and charters and previous resolutions issued by the Council.

['Abd-al-Majid] There are some Arab states that have not released the assets they have.

[Salih] There is an Arab siege imposed by the rulers who are linked with the U.S. anti-Iraq policy. I am sure that Iraq enjoys very wide popular support in the Arab world. We find it strange for foreign countries to release our assets when some Arab governments impose a siege on us. Switzerland released all of our assets in 1991-1992, which amount to almost $125 million; Italy also released a limited part of our assets amounting to $6 million; Austria did the same thing and released around $30 million; Canada, $3 million; Spain, around $20 million; Greece, $13 million. So why don't the Arab countries release our assets to enable us to buy food and medicine?

['Abd-al-Majid] What effect will President Saddam Husayn's chairmanship of the Cabinet—after the recent Cabinet reshuffle—have on the activity of the Trade Ministry?

[Salih] President Saddam Husayn's contacts with our Ministry have never stopped. He has always supervised its activities, especially with regard to providing food. He has given this question great importance. The state has been used to his strong, decisive administration, which was a direct reason for the progress and development achieved by the country. His excellency's supervision of the Cabinet will energize the ministries and give them momentum to expand their activities. The Cabinet is in dire need of such administration under the circumstances of the blockade, which has lasted for four years.

['Abd-al-Majid] The Iraqi family depends on the ration card to get its basic needs. Are you planning to increase the items listed in this card to alleviate the citizens' suffering under the embargo?

[Salih] On 1 June this year, President Saddam Husayn decided to increase the vegetable oil quota for ration card holders and civil servants shopping at the Trade Ministry markets. Every family of six members will accordingly get 300-500 dinars in aid.

['Abd-al-Majid] Have other states asked to be acquainted with the ration card system, which was previously considered by several organizations an effective system to prevent famine? I mean have they tried to benefit from your experience in applying this system?

[Salih] This system has been assessed on the international level. The ration card was considered the best method to distribute food in the world. There is no doubt that every country has its own experience in encountering states of emergency. President Saddam Husayn ordered that this system be adopted during the first week of the economic blockade on our country. We prepared the card within two weeks and it was applied on 1 September 1990, that is, 28 days after the start of the embargo.

['Abd-al-Majid] What is your assessment of the Iraqi market following the recent cabinet reshuffle?

[Salih] It led to a noticeable decline in the price of the dollar and foodstuffs. There is optimism that the market situation will improve.

['Abd-al-Majid] Will the prices of foodstuffs drop in the future?

[Salih] What is important is that we have reaped excellent results from leader Saddam Husayn's management of the executive authority. This has positively reflected on the market by reducing the prices of foodstuffs and the dollar exchange rate. Measures have been taken to improve the situation. I think that the Revolution Command Council decree to grant the party organization and people's assemblies executive jurisdictions to monitor the market was a very important new step toward

expanding the base of popular control of the economic activities and promoting local control of market activities.

['Abd-al-Majid] How many ships dock at al-Basrah ports with food consignments every month?

[Salih] We usually announce the arrival of ships. However, I think an average of four arrive every month. The importance of this maritime activity is that Iraq has been directly linked to the world. This has also reduced the cost of transportation, especially with regard to our imports from southeast Asia.

['Abd-al-Majid] In the light of some signals, can you tell us when the economic embargo will be lifted?

[Salih] As President Saddam Husayn has said, the embargo will be lifted when the wicked ones feel they are unable to undermine the people's steadfastness and their national independent will. Through our steadfastness and willpower, we proved that the embargo will certainly be lifted and that its continuation is not in the interest of the United States or others. Their aims will not be achieved under the embargo and great harm has been inflicted on their companies and products. During the past four years, Iraq could have bought all sorts of commodities and paid foreign firms not less than $60 billion. Iraq's annual oil revenues of $16 billion used to be spent. This means the world economy has lost opportunities to invest $60 billion to expand the volume of exports and production and reduce unemployment. The big powers also lost the Iraqi market.

The world realizes that the tighter the embargo gets, the firmer the Iraqis become. As much as $100 billion could have gone to foreign firms in the reconstruction drive after the military aggression. Iraq has embarked on an effective effort to expand its reliance on itself in the fields of agriculture and industry in order to achieve self-satisfaction. This explains its ability to confront the economic embargo.

'Aziz Addresses Heads of Diplomatic Missions

JN0506190094 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 5 Jun 94

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz has said Iraq's relations with fraternal, friendly, and other countries are witnessing positive development in terms of backing Iraq's just issues.

Attending an evening session of the annual diplomatic conference of Iraqi ambassadors and heads of diplomatic missions abroad, Tariq 'Aziz reviewed Iraq's relations with the world's countries, the development of its relationship with the Security Council, and the international attitude toward Iraq in general.

During the conference, also attended by Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, the deputy prime minister reviewed Iraq's diplomatic and political activity in the international arena in light of the growing international support for Iraq, even inside the Security Council, to reinforce its just demand for lifting the unjust blockade imposed on its people, after it has met all its obligations toward the Security Council's resolutions.

Tariq 'Aziz also explained the means the inspection teams had adopted to fabricate crises and justifications to continue the aggression in all respects.

'Text' of 'Aziz News Conference on Sanctions

JN0606080094 Baghdad AL-'IRAQ in Arabic 2 Jun 94 pp 3,6

["Text" of news conference by Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz with "chief editors of local newspapers and magazines, heads of information departments, journalists, and writers" on 1 June; place not given]

[Text] Baghdad, INA—It pleases me to meet with you so that we may discuss what took place at the recent UN Security Council session and the conclusions we reached after this session. I am certain you read the statement issued by the spokesman for the joint meeting of the Revolution Command Council and the Ba'th Partry command. This statement contains basic signs about the recent UN Security Council session and basic signs about our conclusions from this session. However, I found it useful to provide the Iraqi press with more details about this session.

A substantial change took place in the UN Security Council's stand last March. As you know, in its periodic review of the situation before March the UN Security Council used to issue a short statement called (Iyala Lasso), a reference to the former Ecuadoran ambassador at the UN Security Council who had drawn up this formula at the time to show that the council members are still not convinced that the conditions for lifting the embargo from Iraq have been met. Such a statement was issued for the last time in February 1994. In March, as you know, three important UN Security Council permanent members, France, Russia, and the PRC, called for changing this formula.

These countries said there is clear progress with respect to the implementation of the UN Security Council Resolutions and that such progress should be reflected in the statemnent. The United States and the United Kingdom and some countries which indulge them objected to this proposal. A serious discussion was held within the council at the end of which the council did not reach any decision. This was verily viewed as a crucial change in the UN Security Council stand. It is the first time that the council finds itself divided on the stand on Iraq, a division among the five UN Security Council permanent members. There was a majority within this group: three countries calling for a change. There was also division among the nonpermanent members. Some of these members supported the three permanent members calling for a change. Other members did not support that or remained silent.

Before we left for New York to attend the May session, we did not expect this session would bring about a substantial change in stands because the Special Commission's work of putting in place the long-term monitoring system has not been completed. There was talk last March and even now that this will be completed in July, meaning that the Special Commission and the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] were expected to submit a report on the completion of this system to the council in July.

From this premise, neither I nor the comrades in the command expected that the May review would bring about substantial changes. However, we had to go to New York and we had to hold extensive contacts before the session with UN Security Council members and other important countries which influence international public opinion, which in its turn influences the stand within the UN Security Council.

At the instructions of the president leader, ranking envoys visited several countries. As you know, the minister of culture and information visited several Arab countries. The foreign minister visited three countries in Asia: India, Malaysia, and Indonesia, the chairman of the Nonaligned Movement. Barzan al-Tikriti, the president's political adviser, visited Arab countries in North Africa.

On the other hand, envoys at the level of ambassadors and advisers to the foreign minister visited other capitals of the UN member states, as well as other states not members of the Security Council. Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Dr. [Riyad] al-Qaysi visited Pakistan and China. Visits were also made to countries in Europe, such as Greece, Germany, Austria and others, as well as the Vatican. Other visits were made to Africa and Latin America. During these visits, the situation and the facts were explained to these states. They were told that fairness, justice, logic, and the correct legal reading of the UN Security Council resolutions must lead to the implementation of Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687 and that the obstacle in this regard is the U.S. attitude. This fact was clear on the international level.

While we were in New York, we were required to continue to explain things and abort the counterattack that started after March when the United States and its lackeys in the region found out that Iraqi political and diplomatic activity had begun to produce results by changing the attitude inside the UN Security Council. They started a large-scale diplomatic and nondiplomatic campaign for which they mobilized several means—money and bribes paid by the Saudi and Kuwaiti rulers and pressure and influence by the United States. The Americans had to appear in public, in this instance. As you know, Christopher met with the ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council and warned them against rapprochement with Iraq, because there was some rapprochement. This still exists on the part of certain states. He warned them against such a rapprochement and then did an unprecedented thing. He wrote an article in THE NEW YORK TIMES in which he said the embargo against Iraq should not be lifted, that the embargo should continue, and so forth. Incidentally, I will tell you this, as journalists. I replied to that article in an article which I published and then sent with a letter to an editor at THE NEW YORK TIMES. We had to be there to answer questions and strengthen the convictions of the various states in a positive direction.

We met with all members of the UN Security Council, except the United States. I met with the four permanent members—the British, the French, the Russian, and the Chinese. I met with some of them more than once. Some of the meetings were held jointly. I also met with the other members of the council and with ambassadors of other states that were not members of the Security Council. We had a lengthy discussion about the entire situation. They told us about their expectations of the session. They said: The United States refuses to acknowledge progress in implementing the Security Council resolution and is insisting on that position, and Britain will go along with this position. Therefore, most likely, the council will not make any decision, meaning there will be no new statement. The trend is to not issue any statement, as was the case in March. Indeed the council met on 17 May.

Here, I would like to reiterate the following facts:

First: the states that took a positive position in March have maintained, and even improved, their position. I read some remarks from press sources, which I respect, but I do not think they are aware of the facts. These remarks were made here and there, and suggested some retreat in the position of certain states. There is no retreat in the positions of Russia, France, and China. Their position is firm, and it is even clearer than it was in March, because relations between the competent Iraqi authorities on the one hand and the Special Commission and the IAEA on the other are proceeding very well, in a professional manner. There are no problems. This fact is known to all these states. On my way to New York, I visited Vienna and met with the IAEA director general, who confirmed these facts in a statement issued after the meeting. The reasons that caused these states to change their position in March are still valid in May. They were even strengthened by the continued technical implementation of the Security Council resolutions, particularly Section C of Resolution 687.

In March, some states showed positive signs appeasing or supporting the position of the three states that called for a change in the May meeting. The position of these states was clear. Examples of these states are Spain, Brazil, Pakistan, and Nigeria. As the Russian ambassador, who took the initiative in this meeting, told me, we can now argue with the U.S. side and demand that the statement be changed. He also told me that I was not alone in this meeting when I demanded a change; eight members spoke with me. In the March meeting, two

other council members, namely, New Zealand and the Czech Republic, showed a negative attitude and did not talk in favor of a change.

In this meeting, however, the New Zealand and Czech members remained silent and made no statements. During our meetings with the representatives of these two countries, they showed a good level of understanding and acknowledged progress had been made. They, however, did not commit themselves to announcing this in the council's meetings for political considerations.

There is now a tangible majority of member states in the council that call for changing the statement's formula. These states also acknowledge that progress was achieved in implementing the Security Council resolutions. They believe the economic blockade imposed on Iraq should be addressed by the council, that the blockade should not be eternal and should not last long. They also believe the Iraqi people's suffering deserves attention and that the council should prove its credibility by fulfilling its commitments toward Iraq in exchange for Iraq's fulfillment of its commitments in accordance with the council's resolutions. These states called for this during the council's deliberations. They also call for this in our bilateral contacts with them.

For your information, only the U.S. representative made a very bad statement filled with falsehoods and contradictions. Both the language she used and the presentation she made in the council's meeting were not shown in the remarks made by other representatives. Even the British representative, who joined the U.S. political position on not changing the statement's formula, spoke in a language somewhat different from the U.S. language and could not deny progress had been achieved.

Only one country, namely, Argentina, cheaply—and I must briefly describe its position as a cheap one—supported the U.S. position in a way that did not show a respected diplomatic level. This is the position of these three states. Two other countries remained silent, and the majority of the remaining 10 countries showed a positive attitude. Thus, I consider that what happened in May was progress in the situation.

Naturally, I cannot describe this meeting as a victory or say that it realized great achievements. This is because the achievement which we, along with our people, are expecting is to take tangible steps on the path to the lifting of the blockade. However, this political and diplomatic process is very complicated, and it is influenced by many circumstances and positions and needs time and efforts. Hence, what happened in May is considered progress on the path to lifting or easing the blockade.

The level of both listening to, and understanding of, the Iraqi viewpoint on all issues, whether regarding the weapons, the implementation of Section C of Resolution 687, or other issues evoked against Iraq, is much higher and deeper than ever before.

As you know, I visited New York twice in 1992. I travelled there again in March, 1993 to address the UN Security Council. Fifteen council members spokes ahead of me, the representative of Iraq. Maybe I had something new to say. I made this observation to the council president. I told him that ordinarily the guest should speak first, but I have been accorded a treatment incompatible with the traditions of hospitality and the meetings and the statement that was printed and circulated among the 15 member states.

Before the council began, we used to meet with council members, some of whom were not hostile or tendentious. I mean, they listened and showed some measure of sympathy, but did not follow the drift of the argument quite seriously. We must credit the change that took place in 1992 to Iraq's steadfastness.

In 1991 and 1992, thanks to the U.S. and Western media, and other media paid by the rulers of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, many people and nations were not hostile to Iraq. They were friends with vested interests in Iraq. [two preceding sentences as published] They thought that Iraq would not hold out. How can a small nation like Iraq hold out after an unparalleled ferocious aggression? How can it hold out after such a comprehensive siege and a political and media offensive? They thought it was just a matter of time.

Even when you speak logically and on a legal basis and advance convincing and clear arguments under normal circumstances, the representatives of state X or state Y shakes his head and says: We love the Iraqi people and sympathize with them, but what can we do? This man speaks now. Maybe in a year we will not see him. He will not be committed or responsive. Not that he is a man of bad faith. But he acts realistically as one would expect in our world. As you know, stands based on principle and moral values are not there anymore. Now there is realpolitik. Things are different now. Now we seek interviews with UN Security Council members—even representatives of member nations that participated in the aggression on Iraq. I ask to meet them in my residence at the Iraqi ambassador's house. We sit for an hour, or an hour and a half, and talk. We disagree, but they listen earnestly to what I say.

As for the nations that have no tendentious stands toward Iraq and those that had interests with Iraq in the past and were friends with Iraq, these began to listen attentively and empathize with our grievances and the arbitrary fashion in which Iraq is treated, and the unprecedented texts, which are not necessary even from the UN Security Council's perspective. These nations now listen and understand.

Then there is the reception our envoys had when they visited foreign countries. We recently made visits that until recently were out of the question. I visited Austria and met with its foreign minister, and on my way back I visited Spain and met with Spanish officials.

These are signs that Iraq's position is being understood much more than in the past. One thing that we must also particularly note as media people is the visits made to Iraq by major entrepreneurs who are heavyweights in their countries. Some, or most, of these nations are members of the UN Security Council and they can decide to lift or retain the embargo or prolong or curtail it.

Their visits to Iraq, their meetings with Iraqi officials, and their search for job opportunities indicate that they completely acknowledge Iraq's steadfastness. It is obvious that they admit Iraq has stood fast in the face of the blockade, the political and media campaign, and all the conspiracies that have been concocted against it.

At the same time, it is an acknowledgement that the blockade will be lifted and that after it is lifted, these states and companies will try to benefit from dealing with Iraq, which enjoys a huge potential in terms of economic cooperation.

All these are positive signs, but just as excessive pessimism is completely wrong, excessive optimism also lacks balance. As the leader president stressed on many occasions, we have to stand fast on all levels. This is our firm Iraqi national option. We have to stand fast, to continue our work on the domestic level, and to invest all our revenues, energies, and creativity to run our affairs in order to confront the impact of the blockade. The world's awareness and acknowledgement of our success in this area will help shorten the remaining time of the blockade. It is, however, clear to me and to any objective observer that this subject is and will be under discussion. As an official who holds direct contacts with states, I do not advise setting dates, or to say: Since the blockade was not lifted in May, it will not be lifted in July. This is wrong both politically and diplomatically. There is a meeting in July which is very important and possibly decisive, although deliberations, discussions, and proposals inside the Security Council may take a month. This is possible.

This is a U.S. political process, and Saudi Arabia employs pressure and bribes one state or another to delay the issue for two or three weeks.

Ekeus may raise a new issue for the first time. We have to prepare ourselves for all possibilities. This does not mean that moves toward lifting the blockade have stopped or will stop. On the contrary, they are still going on firmly and will achieve results, God willing.

I do not want to set a date, as this is wrong. The president said during a cabinet meeting yesterday that the remaining time is shorter than the time that has elapsed. I can add a word and say that the remaining time is much shorter, not only in days or even in months, than the time that has elapsed.

Acknowledgment that Iraq has stood fast is obvious. Those who deny this deny reality. They know the reality, but they do not want to admit it because they do not want to reveal their failure. The United States does not want to officially announce the failure of its program against Iraq. The same applies to some U.S. satellites, including some Arabs and some other unrespectable and imbalanced states.

The majority of states, including the Security Council member states and European, Asian, and other states, know and admit that Iraq has stood fast and that the steadfastness of a country like Iraq with human, leadership, scientific, and cultural qualifications and with a huge economic potential means that it has a bright future. Therefore, these states should deal with strong and prosperous Iraq that enjoys this huge potential.

A question from [AL-THAWRAH Chief Editor] Taha al-Basri: There are two questions directly related to this subject, concerning the impression that there is a little deviation in the positions of the three states which the deputy prime minister mentioned, namely, Russia, France, and China. These questions may be triggered by what Western media are circulating, to the effect that these states are linking the question of reconsidering the embargo to resolutions that are not directly related to Resolution 687, particularly Resolutions 833 and 688. In press interviews, the envoys of Russia and France suggested that Iraq has to abide by these two resolutions, thus giving the impression they leaned somewhat toward the U.S. position, which did not discuss Resolution 687 from a technical viewpoint, but linked that resolution to other resolutions that are not directly related to it. These two resolutions concern the measures taken by the UN Security Council and the sanctions imposed on Iraq. We want you to explain the motives behind the statements, which spoke clearly about or hinted at Iraq's dealing with these two resolutions, particularly those made by the Russian and French envoys in press interviews. This is one question.

The second question is: Certain permanent members, particularly France, asked Ekeus, the Special Commission chairman, to submit a monthly report on the extent of progress, or the problems between Iraq and the UN specialized committees. Has anything happened in this regard? Should we expect any positive steps as a result of that request? The request gives the impression that France does not want the United States to be the only party that is well informed about what is going on, and that other permanent members must also know everything. Has anything happened in this regard? What are the positive aspects of the French request?

Mr. Tariq 'Aziz said: Regarding the first question, I said at the beginning of this meeting that there is an impression or a view that there is some change or retreat, or as Mr. al-Basri has described it, a deviation in the position of the three states, France, Russia, and China. I underlined that there is no change in their positions.

From a legal viewpoint, Russia, France, and China do not link Resolution 687 to the other resolutions. They do not link, from a legal viewpoint, the implementation of

Paragraph 22 to the other resolutions that are not related to what we call section C of Resolution 687. However, they say that dealing with, or addressing the other resolutions will facilitate the implementation of Paragraph 22 and will ease or remove the pretexts which the other party—the Americans—and those who go along with them use to obstruct the removal of the sanctions. This is their argument. There is nothing new in this. I heard the same thing from them in November 1993, and when I met with them in March. I heard it for the third time during my [recent] meetings with them. To state this or not state it does not mean there is a change in their position. There are other UN Security Council resolutions that concern other issues. These states have an interest in these resolutions for political reasons and because they have interests with Saudi Arabia, with Kuwait, and in the region, and not only with Iraq. They also have an interest because these resolutions were issued by the Security Council, of which they are permanent members.

I expect them to show interest in these resolutions and to ask Iraq to deal with them. This is not surprising for us. But, in addition to this, they call in the UN Security Council to recognize that there is positive progress and for looking into the question of lifting the embargo as soon as possible. The French, the Russian, and the Chinese envoys specifically implied in March and this month that the question of lifting the embargo should be expeditiously discussed. The French representative said in his speech that the time will come very soon to discuss this issue.

With respect to the monthly report, it has become a monthly event. After the French President of the UN Security Council asked Ekeus to submit a monthly report as of March, Ekeus submitted one on 28 April and it was a positive report. Today, he will submit his second report to the council. Over the past few days, I believe Saturday or Sunday, the foreign minister on his way to Cairo through Amman, accompanied by 'Amir Rashid, director of the Military Industrialization Organization, met with Ekeus in Amman to discuss an issue that needs to be followed up. As Lieutenant General 'Amir Rashid told me, Ekeus promised to submit a factual report. This means the report will be a positive one because the facts are positive.

Al-QADISIYAH Chief Editor Hani Wuhayyib asked the following question: Some press sources say a retraction took place in the May session, compared with what was achieved in the March session, and that the man on the street falsely believes that so long as the U.S. stand is against the lifting of the embargo—the man on the street also believes that the United States is the country holding sway over the council and the one that decides what resolutions are issued—this weakens the chances of lifting the embargo. The man on the street also believes that even if there is a majority within the council for lifting the embargo, the United States will veto any resolution calling for lifting the embargo, and that all this results in frustration for the man on street.

Tariq 'Aziz said: I wanted to speak about this topic before, because I hear such talk, even from my own family. They ask me: How can the embargo be lifted if the United States does not want it? In 1990 and 1991, the United States succeeded in passing resolutions against Iraq through the consent of the member countries in the council, or through pressure. This was why the resolutions were passed with an overwhelming majority.

Some resolutions were even unanimously passed. Countries which had the right of veto and did not support these resolutions did not use the veto. They abstained. This actually happened. That's why there were so many resolutions. Why do these countries which participated in these resolutions, including three permanent member countries, meet with the Iraqi deputy prime minister during his visits to Washington? They talk with him and discuss the details of the implementation of the resolutions, and during the council sessions they call for lifting the embargo. They know the United States will not agree. Why then? Their interests will not be served if the embargo is not lifted. One might say they are placating Iraqi to obtain their interests. How can they get their interests if the embargo is not lifted? How can France, Russia, the PRC, Spain, Brazil, the permanent and nonpermanent members, resume their trade exchange with Iraq if the embargo is not lifted? The countries which deep down know that the embargo will not be lifted will not deal with us. Why bother? Had I been an ambassador of a country with interests in the world and the Iraqi deputy prime minister comes and asks me to speak, why should I bother with him, knowing that his cause is a lost cause, because the United States will not agree?

What he obtains from Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and the U.S. allies and followers in the region is better than wasting his time with me. In other words, it is a futile matter.

It is true that the United States still has influence in the world. However, the U.S. influence is no longer the same as that in 1990, '91, and '92. This is because changes have occurred in Russia, China, France, and the world as a whole. You now see the results of elections in Hungary, where the former Communist Party was toppled. However, this party reorganized itself as a socialist party under a liberal system whose rulers fully supported the United States. In 1992, Hungary's representative in the Security Council was more cruel toward us than the U.S. representative. Under a liberal system and after elections, which were fully democratic by Western standards, this party won 56 percent of votes and an overwhelming parliamentary majority. This also happened in Poland, in addition to the results of elections in Russia.

The world is changing, but not in the direction specified by George Bush, which was called the new world order. The George Bush order is finished; it fell down and failed. There is now a different international situation with a measure of balance. I cannot say this situation has

the same full balance as that which existed before Gorbachev assumed power, prior to the Soviet Union's downfall. However, the world is developing a new shape by creating new balances. Thus, you find that the Iraqi position enjoys being listened to. They are listening to us now, which was not the case in 1992. Even those who used to lend us a deaf ear, as the popular saying goes, are now listening to us, receiving us in their capitals, and sending firms to discuss contracts and projects. Hence, they know that the blockade will be lifted and that the United States will not willingly obstruct [lifting the blockade]. The United States is now obstructing, and it used to obstruct this. Had it not been for the U.S. position, it would have been possible to seriously discuss implementing Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687 in December 1992, after an official document on dealing with Resolution 715 was submitted. The United States, however, obstructed this.

Ekeus will submit a report after which there will be a study of the so-called test period. These are the results of the U.S. obstruction. The United States can obstruct and perpetuate things. It, however, cannot ultimately stop them. A preliminary discussion has thus far been held in the circles and the corridors of the Security Council. I asked ambassadors from important states whether the United States would resort to the veto. They said: We rule out a veto. Based on my simple knowledge in this regard, my analysis was that the United States will not use the veto because the Security Council resolutions against Iraq were based on the so-called international consensus (consensus at the Security Council). But when most Security Council member states and most permanent member states see that the reasons for imposing the blockade and embargo are removed and that only the United States has used the veto, then the legal and logical basis for these resolutions will fall. Consequently, these states can say that they would not comply with these resolutions if the United States wants to control the Security Council through its isolated decision.

Iraq, they will think, then, has legitimate interests. These nations will argue that the reasons that were behind the way they handled Iraq did not obtain. So let's act independently, their argument goes. These nations have political, military, and economic clout. The majority of the international community will then follow suit and the U.S. position will become isolated, just as it is on Cuba. The United States is boycotting Cuba, but the United Kingdom is not, and the same holds for Brazil and France, each weighing its own interests. The Americans are bound to make their position clear soon.

Now I explained to you that in the most recent session, it emerged that as regards Iraq, the United States is in a minority in the Security Council. This is important. I even told an ambassador that this lady—the U.S. UN delegate—or any other delegate, for that matter, is supposed to portray a true picture when they find themselves beleaguered and in the minority camp. She should tell her leaders that, on that issue, we are now a minority. I told him: Do you think she will say this to her president. He said: Yes, I think she will. Furthermore, it is now reported and shown on television screens. You, as media people, watch foreign television stations that are monitoring the situation. It is now obvious that the U.S. position belongs in the minority.

Dr. Sabah Yasin put the following question: You mentioned progress on the political front. However, the news media have now embarked on a new drive to disrupt or delay the mechanism of the Special Commission and involve it in the implementation of Resolution 715, implying that the mechanism of the commission is also tied to a U.S. political decision. How accurate is this assessment? How are you dealing with the Special Commission and IAEA to speed the completion of its final report that will contribute to the work of Paragraph 22, Section C.

Mr. Tariq 'Aziz: Answering the previous question, I said that if it were not for the U.S. position, the Special Commission and the IAEA would have gone to the Security Council in January and told them that the road is now open for a debate on Paragraph 22, and that, for our part, we are ready. This much I told Ekeus in the presence of his aides and members of the Iraqi delegation. I told him: You can now go to the Security Council and tell them I am satisfied, because you know and I know that you obtained all that Section C of Resolution 687 requires. By such delays, you are saving the U.S. Administration.

I told him: You are presenting ambiguous points, gray, as they say. You are helping the U.S. position. He could not prove the contrary and defended himself, but could not prove me wrong. This game, however, has an end. This is because this game is played according to pretexts of a technical nature. When these pretexts become clear, people will say Iraq has a good point. Another important thing is what has happened, from January until now, including the monthly report. Other nations that previously did not care about the Special Commission's reports and took them at their face value now take an interest in the details of the Special Commission's work.

Whenever there is an report by the Special Commission or any statement by Ekeus that tells them that Iraq did not agree to so and so, and this is considered a violation of the cease-fire resolutions, the UN Security Council would immediately issue a statement saying Iraq has violated the cease-fire resolution. You recall the last statement that was issued in this month in 1993 by the Security Council regarding the monitoring cameras. Now the states that are interested in lifting the embargo imposed on Iraq are interested in the work of the commission. Consequently, the staff of the Special Commission, including its chairman, are now aware that all eyes are watching so they cannot fabricate many pretexts. There will probably be a pretext here or a pretext there, but there are qualified Iraqis to tackle and explain this. There are delegations—the delegations which we visited, as well as the delegations that made visits to various capitals. We were sending specialists to explain

to the states that are interested in the work of the Special Commission the minute details concerning what Iraq has done and the pretexts which the Special Commission may fabricate to prolong the process. These high-level experts explained things to the French, the Russians, the Chinese, and others. This process continued whenever we felt there was a need to make a technical explanation. We are doing that now. This time when we went to New York, no one raised this question, except the United States. The U.S. lies were disdained because this was a U.S. political position and U.S. propaganda. Even the British, who support the U.S. political position, did not raise any technical pretexts regarding the work of the Special Committee. The British envoy said the committee's reports indicate progress and that work is proceeding well.

The same goes for the IAEA. Its reports fall in that direction. Therefore, according to expectations, the Special Commission and the IAEA will undoubtedly soon go to the council to announce what has been achieved, and July is approaching as I have said. Let us consider the worst possibilities: You must both go to the Security Council and say this is what has been achieved. We completed the implementation of Section C of Resolution 687. Now how would the council deal with the subject?

Amir al-Hulw [ALIF BA' chief editor] said: There is a question which the ordinary man in the street in Iraq is asking—and the same question was asked by the chairman of the U.S. Congress Foreign Relations Committee: What does the United States want from Iraq? The United States is now raising certain political issues and says that Iraq has not arrived at this level of response, without that level of pressure, so let us continue in the same way to realize certain political objectives, some of which you have addressed?

Tariq 'Aziz: Funnily enough, the chairman of the U.S. Congress Foreign Relations Committee asked this question to Assistant Secretary of State Pelletreau in a hearing and demanded an answer. Pelletreau promised to send a written, confidential answer. We heard from our sources there that the answer did not satisfy the Foreign Relations Committee chairman, not because of the answer itself, but because the answer was not clear. There are two sides to the U.S. position. There is the well-known public position. The United States has taken a hostile attitude toward Iraq and set certain objectives for Iraq. It targets it as a country, a people, and a national leadership, but none of these objectives has been realized. Yesterday, I was at a meeting with two U.S. journalists who are following the issue. I told them that when I met with Baker in Geneva he threatened me. He said we will hit you and return Iraq to the pre-industrial age and that another leadership will decide the future of Iraq.

I said to him: Your Excellency the minister, your country is very strong, and you have huge potentials and deadly weapons. Yes, you will cause severe damage to us, and it is clear from your talk that you will attack us. But Iraq is 6,000 years old, has experienced many difficulties, suffered much from invasions, and remained capable of offering sacrifices and achieving progress and prosperity. Therefore, your first aim of returning us to the pre-industrial age will not be achieved. The second aim, the replacement of the leadership, will also not take place, because the Iraqi people, the Arab nation, and the region's peoples hate the United States for its hostility to the Arab nation, its bias toward the enemies of the Arab nation, and its encroachment on and its exploitation of our country and our nation. Therefore, every one fighting the United States will be backed by the people. I then gave him the following example: You know that when Egypt lost the war with Israel in 1967, Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir resigned but the Egyptian masses returned him to center of leadership despite the clear, unjustified military defeat at that time. The people refused to submit to the logic of the Israeli enemy, which was supported by the United States in the 1967 aggression.

I said to them: Now we are in 1994. Are we really in the pre-industrial age? They said: No. We visited Baghdad and other capitals in the region. The situation in Baghdad is better than that of other capitals. Electric power exists around the clock, while it is cut off in Damascus for 12 to 14 hours a day and while Egypt is suffering from problems in the services area, although these countries are not besieged. They also continue their trade operations. Yet, services are better in Baghdad. This is what they, and not Tariq 'Aziz, say.

So, the first aim, returning Iraq to the pre-industrial age, has failed, and the second aim has also failed. It is clear that Iraq and its leadership are still steadfast and that the people are rallying around their leadership because this is the policy the Iraqis have chosen, at least in the modern age since the 1920 revolution—a national policy of dignity, strength, and independence.

The current U.S. Administration does not want to admit its failure, but it will admit it in the final analysis. This is luckily how the Americans act. They are pragmatists. The pragmatist refuses to admit failure for some time, but admits it later.

It is known that confusion exists in U.S. foreign policy. It is their circles, press, and Congress which say this, and not me. There is confusion in U.S. foreign policy. Therefore, running U.S. foreign policy is neither organized nor clear even to the Americans themselves.

They take this or that position because the matter is not clear to them. This kind of confusion affects U.S. positions toward many issues, including Iraq. As I have previously said, the United States has begun to discover that its isolation in the Security Council has become complete. A prominent ambassador told me that when the proposal to lift the blockade on Iraq is put on the table, the United States should choose, and will choose.

Some Western circles expected the United States not to oppose the unanimous or the majority decision in the council.

Journalist Ahmad 'Abd-al-Majid asked the following question:

There is a view being circulated in our quarters that the Iraqi diplomacy has concentrated its efforts over the past period on the members of the Security Council and that it has somewhat delayed its moves outside this framework. In your assessment, what would we have gained if we had concentrated our efforts toward these countries instead of the members of the Security Council? Could we have achieved the same results we have achieved during this period or could we have seen progress in the stands or level of understanding of these countries?

Tariq 'Aziz: I admit that in the first phase of our diplomatic move, in 1991 and 1992, we focused on the Security Council member states. This was not a wrong option because ultimately the Security Council is the one which will make the decision. Any African country will become more important when it becomes a member of the Security Council. When this country is not a member of the Security Council it will continue to be important, but will not have a vote at the Security Council. When it takes part in the voting at the Security Council such a country will become more important. Therefore, diplomatic moves focused on the member states of the Security Council. This is correct. However, should we be satisfied with this? This is the question. Should we be satisfied with the moves toward the members of the Security Council? My answer is: No. For this reason, I told you that recently we expanded our contacts to cover states that are not members of the Security Council but which are also influential.

India and Malaysia were members of the Security Council, but now, they are not. Indonesia would become a Security Council member next year. So we moved toward it and the foreign minister paid a visit to Indonesia which declared positive stands on lifting the siege of Iraq.

As for Europe, we are contacting European countries. I visited two European countries: One during my departure trip [to New York] and the other during my return trip. Foreign Ministry official Wisam al-Zahawi and Dr. 'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari toured Europe. They visited all of Eastern Europe. The Czech Republic is the only East European country which is now a member of the Security Council. The Iraqi representative [at the United Nations] visited Poland, Romania, and Hungary, in addition to the Czech Republic. Wisam al-Zahawi visited Greece, the Vatican, Germany, Austria, while Dr. al-Anbari visited Portugal, in addition to Spain, which is a member of the Security Council.

We are contacting these countries now. It would have been useful had we visited these countries in 1991 and 1992. However, we should pay attention to a very important thing which I mentioned at the beginning of the meeting. Had we sent 10 delegations to visit all the world in 1991 and 1992 they would certainly would received governments' and popular organizations' sympathy with Iraq, its leadership, and Iraq's leader. But, practically these countries would have done nothing for us. Now that Iraq has remained steadfast, and the world has become aware of this a change has been noticed in the Security Council. This is significant. Those in Asia and Europe would say since there is a change in the Security Council there should be something new. Therefore, when an Iraqi envoy visits them they will show concern, listen to him, discuss things with him, and speak about their future interests with him. Thus, the visit would achieve its results. If there was any shortcoming in the past, this has been tackled and the results, which are being achieved from the contacts with these countries, will be useful.

Salah al-Mukhtar, chief editor of AL-JUMHURIYAH, asked the following question: If the United States insists on maintaining the blockade and tries to oppose the will of the majority, then the other nations will have to weasel out of their commitment regarding the blockade. Can we assume—and this question has been discussed by the Turkish media—that Turkey, on account of its economic crisis, will perhaps be the first nation to weasel out of its official commitment with regard to the blockade if the United States continues it in an arbitrary way? Another question. If we assume that the Security Council wants to lift the blockade soon, does this require a statement or a new resolution? There are two conflicting views on this issue. Some people say that the Council needs a new resolution to lift the blockade, and since there has not been a unanimous position on this, then the lifting of the blockade is delayed. Another view maintains that a statement by the Council will do. Which view is correct, a statement or a resolution as a prelude to lifting the blockade? I also have a query about a report published by the local press. The report says that a former member of the U.S. Congress, who visited Iraq last month, said that a conference for businessmen will be held in Washington in May to discuss lifting the blockade and its effects on U.S. firms and interests. He said the Iraqi trade and oil ministers are invited. Is this true?

Tariq 'Aziz: Regarding the second issue, whether a statement or a resolution is needed, it is my personal view that implementing Paragraph 22 requires a resolution because it is part of a resolution and therefore its implementation requires a resolution. Technically speaking, issuing a statement by the Security Council is more difficult than issuing a resolution, despite the fact that a statement does not have the power of a resolution. According to the Security Council tradition, a statement should get the approval of the five permanent Security Council member states who have the veto right. If any of them insists on opposing the statement, then the president of the Security Council will be embarrassed to issue the statement and the statement he makes will not have the strength of a Security Council statement. A resolution, however, can be issued by a majority of nine

members, provided it is not opposed or vetoed by a permanent member. So technically speaking, issuing a resolution is easier than issuing a statement.

As for Turkey and the others, the Turks have been saying that the blockade has greatly harmed Turkey on the financial, economic, security, and social levels. These statements are issued by senior Turkish officials. When the Turkish Foreign Ministry under secretary visited Baghdad, and before that in our contacts with the Turkish side, we told them: Why don't you cite Article 50 of the UN Charter, which says something like: When the Security Council adopts a resolution imposing an embargo against a certain country, then the country that is harmed by this embargo may go to the Council and ask for its problem to be solved. The Council could compensate it, one way or another, and it can discuss the way to remedy this situation with the Council. Of course, the Council does not have enough money to give compensations. The party that used to pay the compensations is known to the countries that took part in the aggression and the blockade against Iraq. However, this well is running dry because the United States is using too much of it and the well is not the way it was before. Money is no longer being paid. The Security Council does not have enough money to give to anybody. Turkey can go to the Security Council and say: Based on Article 50 we want to deal with Iraq and the Iraqis do not mind in principle. But they would not allow Turkey to do this. There is great pressure on Turkey and it is not allowed to go to the Council at present.

I personally have no information about the third news report. This might have happened. If such a meeting takes place and if Iraqi officials are invited to it, I would recommend participating in it although the U.S. side is tense and does not want to see an Iraqi. They deported the head of the Iraqi interests section without any legal or diplomatic justification because they are upset by any Iraqi presence in Washington, though very limited. They do not want to see an Iraqi. We go there for a week and meet with media men and television correspondents. In my opinion, this provides an opportunity for an Iraqi minister to explain the situation to the U.S. businessmen. Some U.S. businessmen used to deal with Iraq normally. We bought from them merchandise and agricultural crops such as grain, meat, and many other civilian products. They have all lost the Iraqi market. They are talking in U.S. circles about their losses and how long this situation will continue.

Decree Imposes Amputation Penalty for Robbery

JN0406194294 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 4 Jun 94

[Revolution Command Council Decree No. 59 dated 4 June—read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.
The Republic of Iraq,
The Revolutionary Command Council [RCC],
Decree No. 59, dated 24 Dhu al-Hijjah Hegira, corresponding to 4 June 1994.
Decree:

Based on the provisions of Paragraph A of Article 42 of the Constitution, the RCC has decided the following:

1. Whoever commits any of the crimes of robbery provided for in Articles 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, and 445 of Penal Code No. 111 of 1969, and Article 117 of Martial Penal Code No. 13 of 1940, and whoever commits the crime of car theft shall be punished by having his hand amputated at the wrist. In case of repetition, the left foot shall be amputated at the ankle.

2. The penalty shall be execution instead of amputation if the robbery crime is committed by a person carrying a visible or a hidden weapon or if the crime results in the death of a person.

3. Amputation shall not be exacted for the robbery crime in the following cases:

A. If the value of the stolen property is not in excess of 5,000 dinars.
B. If the robbery takes place between a husband and wife or relatives to the third degree.
C. If the perpetrator is a minor.

4. If the court finds that the circumstances of the criminal or the crime referred to in Items A and B of Paragraph 3 of this decree require mercy in accordance with the established legal regulations, it may sentence the perpetrator to life in prison instead of execution.

5. The decree shall be effective as of the date it is published in the official gazette until further notice.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, RCC chairman

Awqaf Minister Values RCC Decree

JN0606115694 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 5 Jun 94

[Text] Dr. 'Abd-al-Mun'im Ahmad Salih, minister of awqaf and religious affairs, has valued the Revolution Command Council [RCC] Decree No. 59, issued on 4 June, stipulating the amputatation of the thief's right hand at the wrist.

The minister told INA's correspondent the decree is in line with God's Book and the provisions of the Islamic Law and in harmony with God's words: As to the thief, male or female: Cut off his or her hands, a punishment by way of example, from God, for their crime, and God is exalted in power. [Koranic verse]

The minister added that this legislation is appropriate to address the robbery cases noted in the decree and that the issuance of the decree is in line with the campaign of faith and jihad led by the faithful leader struggler President Saddam Husayn and to remedy the crimes of theft.

He noted that the rule of God is better than all other rules in achieving deterrence that immunizes society against crime. He asserted that the RCC decree is in implementation of God's rule.

But who, for a people whose faith is assured, can give better judgment than God? [Koranic verse]

Paper Views Media Campaign To Change Enemy Stand

JN0406183994 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic 28 May 94 p 2

[Article by Mazhar 'Arif: "Front Against Front"]

[Text] In the fifties, some people in Iraq and other Arab states held the view that it was better to avoid provoking imperialism through demonstrations and other acts of protest. Those who held this view were mainly liberals who advocated compromise solutions with the ruling regimes which were linked in one way or another with imperialist forces. The liberals claimed that the more the people intensified their resistance to imperialist agents and imperialism itself, the more the agents and their overlords increased their oppression of the people and prolonged foreign domination of Iraq and other Arab states. Despite their call for peaceful action represented by addressing nicely written petitions to the monarchy on some public demand and dispatching delegations to key government officials, or to the British Embassy in Baghdad, for instance, concerning some issue of public interest, such as calling for an end to British influence in and domination of Iraq, our liberal friends were not spared persecution, arrest, imprisonment, and even exile by those royal governments.

Many of those liberal ideas found their way into political action of a different kind in Egypt under the late President Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir. Before the June War, the Egyptian leadership was advised not to provoke the Zionist entity and to use diplomacy in resolving the Arab-Zionist conflict. Strangely enough, the Soviet Union itself was one of those who offered such advice. Following the Arab defeat in that war, many people, both friends and foes, began saying: We advised 'Abd-al-Nasir, but he did not listen to our advice, hence the defeat. Actually, 'Abd-al-Nasir listened to Soviet and French advice. It was the Zionist entity which did not care and was not ready to hear anything other than the voice of racism, aggression, occupation, and the overthrow of 'Abd-al-Nasir's regime.

It is understood that the Soviets also advised Iraq not to provoke the United States and the West by nationalizing oil. The nationalization decision which was drafted by struggler Saddam Husayn was the strongest and most important of all. The Soviets repeated their stand in the period before and after the Nazi military aggression on Iraq. This time, however, it was charged with ill-intention and evil. It came under Gorbachev, not under Podgorny in 1967 or Brezhnev during the nationalization days in 1972.

The position taken by the public throughout those years to this day, especially in Iraq, is to reject the ridiculous idea about not provoking the enemies and opponents, as the liberal circles should have described them. Enemies are essentially provokers against the people, the homeland, independence, and national sovereignty of Iraq or any other country which upholds similar principles. Were it not for the belief in these principles and their efficacy, their revolutions would not have succeeded and victories would not have been achieved in this country or any other country. The experiences of Egypt under al-Sadat and Mubarak, the experiences of other Arab states, and the experiences of 'Arafat with "Israel" all indicate the disastrous course followed by all those Arab sides, which finally led them to surrender to the imperialist and Zionist forces.

The escalation of Iraqi action on the political and media levels against the United States, the West, and the Arab forces which are allied to the imperialists is not only consistent with great Iraq's spirit of challenge against all those quarters as embodied in the glorious word "no", which leader Saddam Husayn has uttered and with which he expressed the steadfastness of the people and the homeland against the blockade, but also harmonious with the principles of the great 17-30 July Revolution and the principles of Saddam Husayn, the engineer of the revolution and its leader to the end.

Our dispute with the different enemies is a deep one. The solution of this dispute is only possible on the basis of those enemies recognizing Iraq's right to freedom, independence, and progress, not on any other basis as the aggressors and their collaborators want and imagine. Perhaps, the enemies' insistence on harming Iraq despite its implementation of the so-called "UN resolutions" is proof that the hostile stand against our country has not changed. This calls for a similar stand at all times. They did not lay down their political, military, and economic weapons against us, and therefore we must continue to use the weapon of information and steadfastness against the aggressors from now and until they are forced to change their stand against us.

Talabani, Barzani Discuss Ending Conflict

NC0606182494 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1615 GMT 6 Jun 94

[Excerpt] Following the bold initiative announced by Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] Secretary General Jalal Talabani to normalize the situation in Kurdistan and remove all manifestations of tension and conflict in the relations between the two allied parties—the PUK and the Unified Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP]—Talabani and KDP leader Mas'ud Barzani held a meeting in Shirin Palace Hotel in Irbil yesterday. The meeting was attended by members of the political bureaus of the two allied parties; Dr. Ahmad al-Jalabi, chairman of the executive council of the Unified Iraqi National Congress, the INC; and Major General Hasan al-Naqib, member of the INC Presidium Council.

During the meeting several important resolutions were issued regarding the withdrawal of the forces of the two parties and the establishment of an operations room in al-Sulaymaniyah including the PUK, KDP, INC, and the Islamic Movement.

It is worth noting that this important meeting took place two days after the historic speech delivered by PUK Secretary General Jalal Talabani to establish security and stability in Kurdistan. In this speech, brother Talabani announced an initiative for a unilateral cease-fire and the withdrawal of the PUK forces.

At the end of the meeting, Dr. Fu'ad Ma'sum, Sami 'Abd-al-Rahman, and Dr. Ahmad al-Jalabi held a news conference attended by representatives of the media establishments in Kurdistan and foreign correspondents. Answering a question on the position of the Islamic Movement in Kurdistan, Dr. Fu'ad Ma'sum, active member of the PUK Political Bureau, said: It was decided that if the Islamic Movement abides by the cease-fire decision, the two parties will show their readiness to disengage their forces under the supervision of the operations room. If the Islamic Movement persists in its previous positions, it will be held responsible for the events by the two parties—that is, the PUK and KDP. In this case, we in the PUK and the KDP must defend the areas of Kurdistan, and the regional government must also carry out its duty.

It should be noted that brother Talabani and Dr. Ahmad al-Jalabi have held a bilateral closed meeting to discuss the situation.

Meanwhile, there was wide-scale reaction to brother Talabani's initiative from regional and international circles. [passage omitted]

Barzani, Islamic Movement Leader View Cease-Fire

NC0606185594 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 6 Jun 94

[Text] Mas'ud Barzani, leader of the Kurdistan Democratic Party in Iraqi Kurdistan, met in Irbil today with Shaykh 'Uthman 'Abd-al-'Aziz, leader of the Islamic Movement in Kurdistan. Barzani said that implementing a cease-fire in northern Iraq is not possible without 'Uthman's approval.

An Islamic Movement spokesman reported that the two leaders emphasized their united position on the current fighting in Iraqi Kurdistan.

The spokesman added that they also discussed the cease-fire in Irbil and the prospect of forming an executive committee, made up of representatives of the three warring parties in northern Iraq and the Iraqi National Congress, to implement a cease-fire in al-Sulaymaniyah.

Peres: Jerusalem Letter Identical to Knesset Speech

TA0706054094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 7 Jun 94

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Hayim Zissowitz; place not given—live]

[Text] [Zissowitz] Good morning, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres.

[Peres] Good morning.

[Zissowitz] Why did you conceal the existence of this letter?

[Peres] Excuse me, why do you say that I concealed anything?

[Zissowitz] In any event, you did not reveal it.

[Peres] Excuse me, I would like to explain things first. In a speech in Johannesburg, 'Arafat said he had received a letter from us in Cairo containing a commitment regarding Jerusalem. Utter nonsense! To begin with, he did not receive any letter from us in Cairo with regard to Jerusalem. What is more, he did not receive any letter whatsoever from us.

Second, the letter was sent to Norwegian Foreign Minister Holst after the agreement was signed, and, in my opinion, its contents are identical to what I said in the Knesset. In my opinion, this is an attempt to concoct a totally unfounded slander. I would like to read to you an excerpt of my remarks in the Knesset: to uphold its cultural heritage and its social, religious, and other institutions—that is what I said in the Knesset. I also said that coexistence in Jerusalem is a matter of mutual respect between all the residents and the normal functioning of the relevant institutions and systems—I repeat—the relevant institutions and systems. My letter does not contain any commitment regarding Orient House or any PLO institutions. The papers write that Peres agreed to Orient House. Where did I agree to Orient House? If Orient House existed during the Likud's tenure and it is legal, then this can be put in writing. If it is illegal, then it can be closed down today. This entire attempt to slander and attribute things that are totally unfounded.... [pauses] The truth is that Holst was involved in the negotiations. I think that what we did this year on the issue of Jerusalem is unprecedented in the history of the State of Israel. On the one hand, we reached an agreement....[pauses] One must look at the whole picture. Again, what we are witnessing here borders on character assassination.

[Zissowitz] Perhaps this could have been averted if you had made the letter public, perhaps....

[Peres, interrupting] Excuse me, hold on a second. We reached an agreement this year with the Vatican in Jerusalem—in Jerusalem as it is: united, under Israeli sovereignty. This year, for the first time, we set Jerusalem aside from the autonomy. True, we promised to uphold the status quo, but the status quo existed even without the letter.

[Zissowitz] With your permission, Mr. Foreign Minister, we will soon touch upon the status of Jerusalem and your position on the issue, but first I would like to ask you: Why did you fail to make the existence of the letter public for eight months, even after Yasir 'Arafat announced the existence of such a letter?

[Peres] I may have been wrong from a journalistic point of view, but I do not act according to journalistic considerations alone. I cannot start making public correspondence with fellow ministers without asking them first....

[Zissowitz, interrupting] But you wrote the letter.

[Peres] Wait a minute; you asked me a question, and I will answer you. I returned to Israel the evening of Friday, 3 June, shortly before the beginning of the Sabbath. The issue began unfolding on Saturday, and I had been abroad for two weeks. Sunday is a day off abroad, and on Monday I coordinated matters with the person I thought I should. I had no reason to conceal the letter. The letter is not stamped top secret, confidential, or anything of the sort. Whoever reads the letter and reads it in good faith, without trying to slander, smear, humiliate, or degrade—as people in our midst tend to do these days—will see that it does not contain anything other than a reference to the existing situation in Jerusalem.

[Zissowitz] In retrospect, when you read the papers this morning and see that even commentators who usually support you are writing that your credibility has been tainted, do you not think you made a mistake?

[Peres] No. It is very easy for them to talk. Why not? After all, they were not the ones who conducted the negotiations. You cannot attribute all the negative things to me. Who achieved all the positive things? When you look at the entire picture of the negotiations and what happened to Jerusalem, I believe that Jerusalem received an unprecedented international boost, both from Christians and Muslims.

[Zissowitz] You sent a distinguished cabinet minister like Moshe Shahal to the Knesset podium to declare that those who claim they are in the possession of such a letter...[pauses] that the whole letter is merely the figment of a wild imagination.

[Peres] Which letter?

[Zissowitz] The same letter that Yasir 'Arafat claimed he had in his possession.

[Peres] No, excuse me, we are not talking about the same letter. My dear friend, please be accurate. I was not in Israel when Minister Shahal made the speech. He did not ask me, and I did not send him to the Knesset. Shahal

was asked about a letter to 'Arafat, and no such letter exists. To repeat, all the stories that 'Arafat took part in the formulation of the letter or that he insisted that the word Christians appear before the word Muslims are the figment of a wild imagination. It makes absolutely no sense! All these are fanciful stories.

In his speech in the Knesset, Moshe Shahal referred to 'Arafat's speech in Johannesburg. What did 'Arafat try to do in Johannesburg? He alleged that he had received a letter from us in Cairo—and he did not receive a letter from us in Cairo—and that the letter contained some promises about Jerusalem—and these do not exist in reality; there are no such promises. In my opinion, Shahal's denial really and truly corresponded to the situation.

We left the status quo unchanged. Why did we do that? In order not to change it for the worse. Why did we agree to Jericho? So that the relevant institutions could be located in Jericho.

[Zissowitz] Let us talk about the relevant institutions, which, as you said in your letter, are very important. If the Palestinians really choose to conduct all the activities pertaining to the autonomy from Orient House....

[Peres, interrupting] They have no permission to do that.

[Zissowitz] Will the status of this building also be upheld in such an event?

[Peres] Which building?

[Zissowitz] Orient House.

[Peres] Where does it say Orient House?

[Zissowitz] It says other institutions.

[Peres] Who says Orient House has been recognized? Listen, it is either one of two things: If it is legitimate and existed during the Likud's tenure, then it will continue to exist in the future. If it is not legitimate, then it must be closed down. This letter does not give any legitimization whatsoever to something that is illegitimate.

[Zissowitz] I would like you to clarify this point. If the Palestinians conduct their autonomy affairs from Orient House....

[Peres, interrupting] We will close the place down. This would be in contravention of the agreement. Jerusalem is outside the autonomy agreement. It does not contain any permission whatsoever....[pauses] This whole thing looks like a bunch of Indians dancing around an imaginary bonfire. The whole purpose of the letter was to clarify that the autonomy institutions would be located in Jericho and that whatever existed in Jerusalem prior to the autonomy—not during the autonomy—would remain unchanged.

[Zissowitz] Generally speaking, will you agree to any compromise with the Palestinians with regard to the status of the Palestinian institutions operating in the city and the status of Jerusalem when these issues are discussed in the negotiations on the permanent arrangement?

[Peres] No, there will be no compromise where matters of government are concerned. My mind is made up, and I will not change it. All those who attack me are actually weakening Jerusalem; you know, in a bid to lash out at the government, they are weakening Jerusalem. My position is clear-cut and unequivocal: Jerusalem and no other city is the capital of Israel. Jerusalem will not be Berlin and will not be divided in two; it will remain a united city under Israeli sovereignty. I have said on more than one occasion, and I will repeat it now: Jerusalem is closed politically but open from the religious point of view.

Seeing that we are talking seriously, let me tell you something else. At times, a more relaxed and smarter style saves me arguments. What does the letter contain, after all? A promise to uphold the status quo. It contains no reference whatsoever to Orient House. I believe Orient House is Faysal al-Husayni's property. There were times when it was open and times when it was closed down. The letter does not contain any commitment whatsoever either to open it or to close it down.

[Zissowitz] Are there any other letters appended to the agreement?

[Peres] Not that I know of. I reiterate, all these alleged lies are totally unfounded. What lies? Did we send even one letter to 'Arafat? Was this letter sent before the agreement? Was it part of the agreement? And even after you read it, what does it contain? Only a reference to the existing situation, and that is all.

[Zissowitz] Finally, Foreign Minister Peres, did you mishandle the entire issue?

[Peres] No, I did not. I know some issues are bound to cause anger and aggravation, but I am determined. I think we have scored huge achievements. I think all we have done surpasses what the Likud had committed itself to many times over. I would like to tell you that if any forgery was ever committed, it was when the Likud signed an agreement citing the words Palestinian people [previous two words in English] and translated it into Hebrew as the Arabs of Eretz Yisra'el. At the time, everybody kept mum about it. Any schoolchild will tell you that Palestinian people [previous two words in English] means the Palestinian people.

[Zissowitz] But this is altogether a different issue.

[Peres] That is right. Nevertheless, we said we did not give a letter to 'Arafat, and we did not give a letter to 'Arafat. There has been no change in the status and the situation of Jerusalem as it existed until the autonomy. There has been no such change.

[Zissowitz] Thank you very much, Foreign Minister Peres.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0500 GMT on 7 June carries a similar live telephone interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Mikha Friedman and Ya'el Dan. Asked what was the reason for sending such a letter a few days after the agreement was signed in Oslo, Peres replies: "The answer is quite clear. On the eve of the signing of the agreement in Oslo, a deep crisis emerged between us and the Palestinians which almost blew up the entire negotiations, because they wanted the autonomy institutions to be outside Jericho—say, in Jerusalem. We said that they must be located only in Jericho and nowhere else or else there will be no agreement. They said: What about existing institutions, such as hospitals and schools? I said: We will not change the existing situation in Jerusalem. Holst asked me whether I would be prepared to put this in writing some day, and I replied: Yes, I have no problem with that. That is the whole story."

[Asked whether the future of Jerusalem will be discussed in the framework of the negotiations on the permanent arrangement or on the autonomy, the foreign minister replies: "In the framework of the permanent arrangement."

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0600 GMT on 7 June carries a summary of the interview with Foreign Minister Peres, adding that "correspondent Moti Amir points out that the text of the letter the Palestinians have in their possession is dated 9 September, more than one month before the date written on Foreign Minister Peres' letter to Norwegian Foreign Minister Holst."]

Defends Talks on Expanding Self-Rule Area

TA0706090094 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 7 Jun 94 p A3

[Report by Gid'on Alon]

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has warned that if we do not continue the negotiating impetus with the Palestinians to extend the autonomy to other areas in the West Bank, the intifadah might be reignited. Peres, who addressed the Labor caucus, was sharply criticized by several faction members, who claimed that the government should not hurry to expand the self-rule area.

Labor Secretary General Nisim Zvili said the public feels that we should not rush ahead toward the next stages of the negotiations. He said we do not need to run faster than we undertook in the negotiations. Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Gur said that the main problem is that the coming stages in the negotiations include all the areas of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. Knesset Member 'Imanu'el Sussman retorted angrily: "You want to go on to the second stage, and I ask: What will happen in the area between Ma'ale Adumim and Jerusalem?"

The foreign minister said it is preferable to impose some self-rule on all the territories rather than all the self-rule on some of the territories. He said that the accord with the PLO opened up markets for us. "The agreement constitutes a big success, and I suggest not to pay attention to denigrations from all sides. For the first time in this century, we helped our partner take part in the peace process," Peres said. He said this was the first time Jerusalem has been removed from the self-rule. [passage omitted]

Opposition Parties, 'Ashrawi React to Peres Letter

TA0706045994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 7 Jun 94

[Text] The Peres letter on Jerusalem has angered political leaders on the right of the Israeli spectrum and raised questions in East Jerusalem. Details from Steven Pantanowitz:

[Begin recording] [Pantanowitz] There have been reactions from leading members of the Likud and other parties further to the right in the Israeli political arena. Likud Knesset Member [MK] Beni Begin, who for some time has been charging that such a letter exists, issued a statement saying that publication proved the government was trying to lead the nation astray. He said only a few hours before it was put out, government spokesmen were claiming that it was merely a copy of the foreign minister's Knesset speech in September. This is not true, Begin said. He charged that the Israeli Government, with the agreement of the prime minister, had given the PLO a commitment under which the status of its institutions in Jerusalem would be preserved without any time limit whatsoever. In so doing, Begin said, the government had struck a substantive blow at Israeli sovereignty in Jerusalem, and he forecast the publication of more documents in this vein.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0400 GMT on 7 June adds that "the Tzomet Knesset faction joins the Likud demand to have a revote on the Cairo agreements following the disclosure of Peres' letter. MK Moshe Peled told our correspondent Hayim Hecht that Tzomet is demanding that the government make public two other annexes to the Cairo agreement dealing with Yasir 'Arafat's status."]

The National Religious Party spoke of double moral standards and a cover-up. Israel, the statement said, was abandoning its basic positions of principles, and the government was falling into a trap laid by 'Arafat on the way to turning Jerusalem into the capital of Palestine.

MK Rehav'am Ze'evi, the leader of the small Moledet faction, talked of an Israeli Government participating in another march of folly, as he put it.

In defense of the letter, Shulamit Aloni, leader of the left-wing Meretz coalition party, criticized the lack of forthrightness in the affair and said it was better to tell the truth and not to hide one's convictions.

Police Minister Moshe Shahal met last night with Faysal al-Husayni and told him that Israel had no intention of

changing the status quo that existed in Jerusalem before the Oslo conference. The two met after Faysal al-Husayni held an urgent meeting of the Arab Committee on Jerusalem. Hanan 'Ashrawi, a member of the committee, on the controversial Peres letter:

['Ashrawi] Very clearly, the Israeli officials knew about it, and they still persisted in a policy of undermining Palestinian presence and Palestinian rights. So there is, in a sense, a violation of trust. And because the letter was supposed to be kept secret until both sides agreed—or not to be disclosed—then it means that they used this lack of disclosure in order to create facts which are prejudicial to Palestinian institutions. [end recording]

Shahal Holds Secret Meeting With al-Husayni

TA0706083294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 7 Jun 94

[Excerpts] Police Minister Moshe Shahal met last night in Jerusalem with Faysal al-Husayni on the issue of Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres' letter and made it clear to him that Israel has no plans to hurt the Palestinian institutions that began operating in East Jerusalem after the Madrid conference. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports:

[Begin Amir recording] The police minister held an urgent and secret meeting with al-Husayni because of the need to publicize Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres' letter to his Norwegian counterpart. Palestinian sources reported that Minister Shahal reiterated to al-Husayni that Israel has no intention of impeding the activities of the Palestinian institutions established in East Jerusalem after the Madrid conference and that there will be no change in the status quo on the issue. According to them, al-Husayni voiced his concern over statements by Israeli cabinet ministers regarding the activities in Orient House and once again demanded that the Israeli Government lift the closure on East Jerusalem, which cuts it off from the territories.

Al-Husayni came to the meeting with Shahal after an emergency session at his office in Orient House with members of the Jerusalem Committee. His fellow committee members accused Israel of trying to determine unilaterally and already at this point the status and future of Jerusalem. [passage omitted]

It should be pointed out that the Jerusalem Committee headed by al-Husayni set up a subcommittee to monitor Israel's actions against the Palestinian institutions in East Jerusalem.

[Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew on 7 June, in a page-9 report by Roni Shaqed, says that "yesterday, Arab leaders in Jerusalem decided to take action to strengthen the Palestinians' status in the city and raise the plight of the city within all negotiating frameworks without conceding its status as the Palestinian capital. It was also decided to continue to develop the Palestinian institutions in Jerusalem and not to heed Israel's orders to transfer these institutions to the autonomy area."

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0600 GMT on 7 June adds that Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi told correspondent Moti Amir last night that "all the Palestinian autonomy institutions will be located in Gaza and Jericho during the interim period but could relocate elsewhere, including East Jerusalem, later."]

Shahal Denies Promises Made

TA0706085394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 7 Jun 94

[Telephone interview with Police Minister Moshe Shahal by Hayim Zissowitz; place not given—live]

[Text] [Zissowitz] Good morning, Police Minister Moshe Shahal.

[Shahal] Good morning, Hayim.

[Zissowitz] I suppose you are calling us to react to what the foreign minister said.

[Shahal] I am also prepared to talk about that, but first I would like to discuss something else. It is a real shame that you did not talk to me about the report on my meeting with Faysal al-Husayni, because it is entirely untrue.

First, I did not meet with Faysal al-Husayni because of the foreign minister's letter. The truth is that I only learned about the existence of a letter to the Norwegian foreign minister yesterday evening.

Second, this was not an emergency meeting.

Third, what was discussed in it was the exact opposite of what you reported. I unequivocally told Faysal al-Husayni that if any Palestinian security or police personnel are deployed in Orient House or elsewhere [in East Jerusalem], we will arrest them, take them into police custody, and bring them to trial; that if we find a man bearing arms in Jerusalem without a license or permit, he will be thrown in jail; that if we discern any pan-Palestinian activities in Orient House, we will simply take legal action against it. I cited the example of the Palestinian Bureau of Statistics and categorically told him that we will shut it down. I told him in the most unambiguous manner that Jerusalem is unequivocally the capital of Israel; that the status quo will not change as far as Jerusalem is concerned; that it is totally inconceivable to us to allow any change whatsoever, either creeping or otherwise, that would alter the status of Jerusalem during the interim period. This was a very comprehensive meeting, and it was attended by Mr. Moshe Sason and the Jerusalem District police commander. That is why I am very sorry that you aired this report without asking me.

[Zissowitz] Well, so you have now clarified what was said in the meeting. Since you called us, I would like to

seize this opportunity to ask you: Do you feel embarrassed this morning after learning that you were sent to the Knesset to declare from the podium that no letter was sent to Yasir 'Arafat and that the whole thing was the figment of someone's imagination?

[Shahal] First of all, I am not embarrassed when facts are revealed. After asking the Prime Minister's Office for details, I went to the Knesset podium and gave an answer in accordance with what I had been told in the clearest and most categorical fashion. I did not know about the existence of a letter to the Norwegian foreign minister, but after I talked to Foreign Minister Peres yesterday....

[Zissowitz, interrupting] Were you misled?

[Shahal] I would not say that. I do not think anybody had such intentions. After talking to the foreign minister yesterday and asking him for explanations, and after he read the letter to me, I must note another point that was not sufficiently stressed, which is that the letter to Holst speaks about institutions for the residents of East Jerusalem. Nevertheless, I did not know about the existence of such a letter.

[Zissowitz] Thank you very much, Minister Shahal.

Reporter Speculates on Existence of More Letters

TA0606191694 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 6 Jun 94

[Studio discussion by political correspondent Gadi Sukenik and announcer Ya'aqov Ahime'ir on the "Popolitika" program; monitored in progress—live]

[Text] [Sukenik]...I have the letter Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres wrote to the late Norwegian Foreign Minister Johan Jorgen Holst. Permission to make the letter public was given by his successor. The Foreign Ministry said Israel firmly insisted that the Palestinian autonomy institutions be situated in Jericho and not in Jerusalem, but made it clear that there would not be any change in the status of the Palestinian inhabitants. Foreign Minister Peres acted with the knowledge of the prime minister, and that is very important for relations between the two and for responsibility, for at least the information fiasco. The letter says: I wish to confirm that the Palestinian institutions in East Jerusalem and the affairs and welfare of the Palestinians in East Jerusalem are very important, and will be upheld. Therefore, all the Palestinian institutions in East Jerusalem—economic, social, educational, and cultural—and the Christian and Muslim holy places fulfill a vital function for the Palestinian population. There is no need to say we will not intervene with their activities. Yours sincerely, Shim'on Peres.

That is the letter. It is still not clear whether that is all there is. I must say that several days ago....

[Ahime'ir, interrupting] But we just saw the letter, and you read out the translation. What do you mean when you say it is not clear if that is all there is? Is that the letter or not?

[Sukenik] That is the letter. The question is whether there is more, why Israel admitted to a letter only three weeks after 'Arafat divulged the fact that he has a letter on Jerusalem, no matter how innocent it is. Shim'on Peres and others—including Rabin in the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee several days after the letter's existence became known—said that there are no secret annexes to the accord with the Palestinians. In other words, they say this is not an annex to the accord, but a knowledgeable Foreign Ministry source told me that it is an accompanying letter—to what? Not to my mortgage—apparently to the agreements with the Palestinians.

[Ahime'ir] Gadi, do you suspect there might be other documents?

[Sukenik] I do fear that because of the fact that it was held up for weeks and the fact that we were told it contains only a quote from Peres' Knesset speech. By the way, there is another letter translated into Hebrew—I will not show it to the camera now—which contains quotes from Peres' speech to the Knesset, but Faysal al-Husayni spoke about other understandings on Jerusalem made in February, and in the wake of this whole circus, it is not clear if that is all there is. There is no doubt that in the best circumstances, Rabin and Peres have lost a lot of points in their battle for credibility. We are going to have a national referendum, at least on the Golan Heights, and this creates a big problem.

Commentary: Letter Cover-Up Damages Credibility

TA0706110594 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 7 Jun 94 pp 1, 19

[Commentary by Nahum Barne'a: "Caught With Their Pants Down"]

[Text] Whether it was an act of unlucky bungling or malice, negligence, or deliberately pulling the wool over our eyes—whatever the reasons, it is hard to deny one thing: Our government was caught with its pants down.

Peres sent a letter and Rabin sent Shahal to the Knesset podium to deny it. It is an embarrassing event, perhaps the most embarrassing since this government was founded. The biggest scandal is not the contents of the letter but the attempt to deny its existence. Up to now, we have known that one party to the Oslo agreement—Yasir 'Arafat—has a credibility problem. Now we are starting to understand that the other side has a problem, too.

The letter was sent after tough wrangling between Israel and the PLO. 'Arafat demanded the personal status of patron of the Christian and Muslim holy sites, as well as

a permanent political entity in East Jerusalem. Israel wanted to totally circumvent the Jerusalem issue.

In the end, if our government sources yesterday told the whole truth, 'Arafat gave up including the Jerusalem issue in the agreement and its annexes. Israel, for its part, agreed to send Norwegian Foreign Minister Johan Jorgen Holst a letter summing up Palestinian rights in East Jerusalem. The letter has an annex containing sections on Jerusalem from Peres' speech to the Knesset—that is, if they are telling the whole truth.

The letter undertakes to uphold and respect all the Palestinian institutions in the eastern part of the city: They are performing an essential task. Israel will not hamper their activity; on the contrary, it will encourage them. The same holds true for the Muslim and Christian holy sites.

This implies the beginning of recognition of 'Arafat's preeminent status over Christian and Muslim assets in East Jerusalem—not Saudi Arabia's, not Jordan's, not even an international body's, but the PLO's. It, of course, involves recognition of the activity of the PLO institutions in Jerusalem. 'Arafat was inaccurate when he said in his Johannesburg speech that the undertaking was given to him in Cairo, but he did not lie when he said that he had received a commitment.

Dan Meridor suspected that there was some truth to 'Arafat's remarks. He should be praised for his investigation. Twice, Moshe Shahal got up in the name of the government to clarify 'Arafat's remarks, and twice he said there was no letter. Shahal received his information from Eytan Haber, head of the prime minister's bureau. Shim'on Peres was on a tour of North and Latin America at the time. He did not know whether the government was telling the truth.

Last week, Rabin addressed the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. Meridor called on Beni Begin to question the prime minister. Begin exerted pressure; Rabin wriggled out of by answering: "To the best of my knowledge, there is no letter to 'Arafat." It was a semi-admission.

It is true that the letter was not addressed to 'Arafat but to Holst. It is true that the Rabin government did not hurt the status quo in Jerusalem. It was the Shamir government that approved the activities of the PLO institutions in Jerusalem, under the direction of Orient House. It made a grave mistake, from its point of view. In fact, Peres wrote to Holst what Shamir had authorized for al-Husayni.

That does not significantly change the fact that Rabin and Peres were caught with their pants down. For days, they have been humoring us with the story that the Peres letter is merely a reiteration of the position he expressed in the Knesset debate on the Oslo agreement. I read the speech and the letter. In the speech, Peres said that "each community in Jerusalem can uphold its cultural tradition, its special character, its social, religious, and other institutions." He barely deserves a passing grade for the resemblance between the two versions.

For months we were told that 'Arafat represents a different culture, a different mentality. We are responsible for every word we utter; he lies through his teeth. The letter incident has somewhat blurred the differences. This may be the new Middle East Peres has been talking about so much.

Beilin: Desire for Peace Shared With Syria

TA0706050494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 7 Jun 94

[Text] Former U.S. Defense Secretary Les Aspin says the U.S. Administration understands that an Israeli-Syrian peace settlement would require extensive resources, which it is willing to commit. He was speaking during a lecture at the Davies Institute of Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin, who also spoke at the gathering, cited an article from the London-based paper AL-HAYAH, which is considered a reliable source on Syria. The newspaper's editor wrote that peace talks between Israel and Syria are not frozen. He recalled that former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger shuttled between Jerusalem and Damascus 41 times to help arrange the separation of forces agreement after the Yom Kippur War. Israel and Syria have shared outlooks, Beilin said: a desire for a peace agreement; recognition of the need for withdrawal and U.S. involvement in the process.

Rabin Comments on al-Dirani Interrogation

TA0606060394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 6 Jun 94

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said that Mustafa al-Dirani's abduction has uncovered information about missing navigator Ron Arad; however, there are still no clear details regarding his fate. The prime minister spoke with correspondents yesterday at Haifa University, where he received an honorary doctorate. Haviva Roger reports:

[Begin recording] [Roger] Until it is proven otherwise, Yitzhaq Rabin asserted, I consider Ron Arad to be alive. Al-Dirani's abduction to Israel added information about Ron Arad.

[Rabin] He is talking, but I will not say what he is saying. There is additional information about the past, and I hope that the same may perhaps also be true with regard to the future. At this stage, one must be cautious and not make unnecessary statements. Since I cannot state with certainty that Ron Arad is no longer alive, his status is that of a POW or MIA. Until proven otherwise, I consider him alive.

[Roger] The prime minister expressed the assessment that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will

arrive by the end of the month for another round of talks between Syria and Israel. Rabin believes that the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] operations against Hizballah centers will not affect the negotiations. The understandings reached after Operation Accountability stipulate that just as Hizballah can act against SLA [South Lebanese Army] and IDF military targets, Israel can operate against Hizballah installations that are not located within civilian population centers.

[Rabin] As in the past, Hizballah continues to initiate terrorist attacks against us. We will not play by its rules.

[Roger] Yitzhaq Rabin, who spoke on behalf of various luminaries receiving honorary doctorates, reminded his audience that the 1967 war broke out exactly 27 years ago, saying that it was a war in which united Jerusalem became ours forever. Outside the Haifa University campus, the members of the Eretz Yisra'el Front demonstrated. Large police forces prevented them from entering the campus. [end recording]

[In a later report in the same newscast, Qol Yisra'el adds that, speaking yesterday, "Prime Minister Rabin said that the PLO has not yet adapted itself to assume responsibility for a civilian community." In a recorded passage, Rabin says: "Those who sought to assume responsibility for the area must also supply the people with occupations and the means to make a livelihood. I have no doubt that a process of adjustment is necessary. The PLO has never been responsible for the life of a community. If that organization wishes to mature and assume responsibility, it is high time it found the mechanisms that will enable the donor countries to give money, because the donor countries are prepared to contribute funds. The donor countries are all democracies, however, and it is inconceivable for them to just hand over $100 million to the PLO or its chairman and tell the Palestinians to do whatever they want with the money. As a result of their own internal structure and institutions, they can only contribute funds within the framework of a controlled budget, set out clearly in black and white, and the PLO has not yet adjusted to this."]

Knesset Committee Members Visit Northern Command

TA0606143794 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 6 Jun 94 p A4

[Report by military correspondent Eytan Rabin]

[Text] Members of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee headed by Knesset member [MK] Ori Or yesterday toured the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] Northern Command and south Lebanon. The committee members were briefed by senior Northern Command officers about the reasons for the Air Force attack on a Hizballah training camp in the Ba'labakk area. They were also briefed about possible terrorist attacks.

MK Or said that if Lebanon disarms Hizballah it will be possible to speak about evacuating the security zone.

Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu expressed support for the IDF operation in Lebanon and voiced total support for the government's decisions in this regard.

Meanwhile the state of alert on the northern border continues. Senior military sources said despite the fact that no Katyushas have been fired by Hizballah since Friday they are continuing their activity in the security zone.

The sources say that the terrorists are trying to plant explosive charges, to attack outposts, and to kidnap soldiers. The terrorists are also trying to smuggle suicide squads into the security zone for attacks against IDF and SLA [South Lebanese Army] forces.

"We are convinced that Hizballah will try to carry out a spectacular attack in retaliation for the Air Force attack," said a senior Northern Command source.

Major General Yitzhaq Mordekhay, commander of the Northern Command, will today brief the General Staff about recent developments in Lebanon.

Risks of New IDF Policy Against Hizballah Viewed

TA0306142994 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 3 Jun 94 pp 1, 13

[Commentary by Ron Ben-Yishay: "The IDF is Taking an Aggressive Approach"]

[Text] Yesterday's attack by Israel Air Force [IAF] jets against a Hizballah training base in Lebanon's al-Biqa' was the strongest blow dealt to the organization in the past eight years.

Even before they had time to recover from the abduction of Mustafa al-Dirani, the leaders of the Hizballah lost dozens of their youngest fighters in the heart of their "security zone" in al-Biqa', under the nose of the Syrians and their antiaircraft missiles.

The two latest actions reflect a new, far more aggressive, approach recently adopted by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] against hostile elements in Lebanon with the government's approval. In light of the deadlock in the negotiations with Syria, Israel has no reason to show the restraint and passivity which have characterized the IDF's activity in Lebanon until now.

In the absence of a better response, Hizballah resorted to the familiar: launching Katyusha rockets at towns in the Galilee. Judging from experience, this is not the last word. One can safely assume not only additional Katyusha volleys over the next few days but also a concentrated effort by Hizballah to attack IDF and SLA [South Lebanese Army] outposts and patrols in the security zone. There may be also be attempts to kidnap SLA and IDF soldiers. The situation may deteriorate in a way similar to the exacerbation that preceded Operation Accountability [July 1993].

The difference is that this time, the IDF is taking the initiative while the Hizballah is only reacting, to a large extent out of helplessness. Another difference is the increasing effectiveness of the IDF offensives.

The IAF has attacked in Lebanon dozens of times in recent years, but only in rare cases has it managed to inflict a real blow on the terrorist organizations. Most of the benefit of these air raids lay in their deterrent effect and in their disruption of preparations for terrorist operations. Now, the fighting capabilities of the fundamentalist organization are increasingly being undermined.

Judging from recent operations, the IDF has acquired some intelligence information that enables it to strike at the root of the problem; or in other words, Hizballah's fighting corps. One can also discern an improvement in the IAF's capability to carry out surprise attacks against distant targets, despite the threats along the way (Syrian antiaircraft fire). This improvement in the IDF's "long arm" enables it to refrain from striking at the civilian populace which supports Hizballah, as was the case in the past.

Yesterday's IDF operation did not violate the understandings reached in the wake of Operation Accountability in July 1993. The target attacked, 'Ayn Zarzarah, was not a village but a major Hizballah training base several kilometers from the Syrian border. In any case, it does not matter whether or not Israel violated the understandings. Hizballah cannot allow itself not to retaliate against the recent attacks. The question is which form this reaction will take and how powerful it will be. It will also serve as a test for the new Israeli strategy. If the reaction is tolerable, and does not lead to a serious exacerbation, then the Israeli gamble has paid off and the recent operations have achieved their goal. But if we again find ourselves in a situation where Israel has to ask the Americans to mediate for a cease fire, with the help of Syria, then both the gamble and the new strategy have failed.

Air Force Raid Seen as Signal to Syria, Hizballah

TA0306113394 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 3 Jun 94 p A1

[Commentary by Ze'ev Schiff: "A Signal to Damascus"]

[Text] The fierce Israeli Air Force attack against a Hizballah training facility in the Syrian-controlled area of the northern part of the al-Biqa' should be construed, among other things, as an Israeli signal to Damascus to the effect that Israel does not regard the talks between them as reason for preventing an operation against the extremist Shiite organization.

The Syrian angle was debated in Israel prior to the operation. In consultations held prior to the operation the political process with Syria was raised. The freeze in the talks between the two countries undoubtedly had an indirect effect on the decision adopted. Seeing that there is no danger of a military operation against Hizballah foiling such talks, the military consideration finally prevailed. Hizballah in any case is continuing its attacks against the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and SLA [South Lebanese Army] in south Lebanon without any consideration for the peace talks. In its operation Israel has signalled to Syria and Hizballah that its security considerations alone determine its mode of operation.

Those who made the decision to attack were aware of the possibility that Hizballah would retaliate with Katyusha attacks against our northern settlements—as was actually the case yesterday. Israel believes, however, that the attack did not violate the understandings reached with U.S. mediation following Operation Accountability. According to this understanding Israeli settlements and Lebanese villages should not be attacked unless fire is directed from within them. Hizballah, however, is continuing its war against Israel in south Lebanon and has hit many IDF and SLA soldiers. The Israeli operation was in turn directed against a military training base for Hizballah fighters, most of whom are sent to carry out attacks in south Lebanon.

From the military point of view yesterday's attack can be considered to be one of the severest blows ever suffered by Hizballah. Many previous Air Force attacks ended with only few Hizballah casualties, whereas this time the organization suffered dozens of dead and wounded. The numbers involved constitute a considerable percentage of Hizballah's total fighting cadre, and are higher than the total casualty toll Hizballah suffered in Operation Accountability. The operation was carried out after 0200, under complete darkness, which indicates the kind of ability Israel's Air Force has developed for night operations. Lebanese sources say that the first wave was carried out by jet fighters, which were later joined by a second wave of helicopter gunships. It is clear that without early intelligence regarding the details of Hizballah's training base it would have been hard to locate the targets there. According to one assessment, Mustafa al-Dirani's abduction and interrogation in Israel improved Israel's familiarity with Hizballah and its military infrastructure.

Deputy Minister Urges Rabin Not To Deport Iraqis

TA0406110994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 4 Jun 94

[Text] Deputy Agriculture Minister Walid Sadiq has asked the prime minister and Police Minister Shahal to reverse their decision to deport to Jordan five Iraqis who recently crossed from Jordan into Israel seeking political asylum. Sadiq visited the five in Nabulus prison yesterday and said he feared that Jordan would return the men to Iraq.

Poll Indicates Netanyahu Leads Likud Candidates

TA0306113894 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 3 Jun 94 p 7]

[Dahaf Institute Poll Conducted by Dr. Mina Tzemah]

[Text] The following question was put to a representative sample of Likud members: Which of the following people do you consider best suited to be the Likud's candidate for prime minister in the next elections (answers given in percentage points)?

Binyamin Netanyahu—48; Binyamin Begin—17; Ari'el Sharon—14; David Levi—9; Dan Meridor—8; none of the above—3; no reply—1.

The poll was held on Tuesday and Wednesday among a representative sample of 503 Likud members. The maximum margin of error is 4 percent.

King Husayn Chairs Part of Cabinet Session

JN0406151294 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 4 Jun 94

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn chaired part of the cabinet's session at the Prime Ministry at noon today in the presence of His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al- Majali, and Royal Hashemite Court Chief, His Excellency al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir.

In a news conference following the session, His Majesty King Husayn said a review was made of both the regional situation and the expected developments in the coming phase. His majesty added that during the session there was emphasis on the need for this country to remain cohesive as one family from various origins and descents. He said we should enjoy awareness and affiliation, and that we should also study all that took place and has thus far taken place, so we will draw the conclusions required for effective action that guarantees the country's future in terms of its steadfastness, in order to serve the kinsfolk and brothers in Palestine with regard to their rights on their national soil.

Al-Majali's Cabinet Reshuffle Overcoming Difficulties

Ministers Resign

JN0706142394 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 7 Jun 94

[Text] The Jordanian News Agency has learned that the ministers tendered their resignations and placed them at the disposal of Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali at noon today.

The agency also learned that Dr. al-Majali will introduce a reshuffle that includes a number of portfolios in his government, in which deputies [from the House of Representatives] may not take part at this stage.

The reshuffle is expected to be announced soon after a royal decree is issued.

Difficulties Reported

PM0606152094 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 4 Jun 94 pp1, 4

[Report by Salamah Ni'mat: "Al-Majali Unable To Carry Out Major Reshuffle of Jordanian Cabinet"]

[Text] Amman—Reliable Jordanian political sources said yesterday that Prime Minister Dr. 'Abdal-Salam al-Majali has so far been unable to persuade a number of political figures to join his government in a major reshuffle he intended to carry out to enlarge the government's political base and contain opposition to his government's internal and foreign policies.

The sources added that al-Majali told people close to him that he would not be reshuffling his government "because many qualified political figures have refused to join that government." They noted that al-Majali "has renewed his accusations claiming that certain political forces considered loyal to some former prime ministers were trying to bring down the government," and that the government now has no clear vision regarding the question of the reshuffle which has been pending and which has resulted in "complete paralysis and chaos in government organs."

According to parliamentary sources, the efforts made by some ministers to pacify the House of Representatives' Financial Committee have failed. One of the committee members told AL-HAYAH that the committee "will not allow its members to be used in a government ploy to pass future decisions to raise the prices of water, electricity, and other services." The parliamentary sources emphasized that the government's future "is now in the hands of his majesty the king," who "might take surgical and dramatic steps."

The political circles are unanimous that al-Majali's failure to carry out a cabinet reshuffle means that the end is near for his government, perhaps not more than a few weeks away. Observers believe that al-Majali's government has been lumbered with some ministers who are seen as a burden on its shoulders and who have failed to promote basic relations with the National Assembly and the political parties. Some sources say that al-Majali had hoped to replace a number of ministers through a cabinet reshuffle, including First Deputy Prime Minister Dr. Ma'n Abu-Nuwar and Second Deputy Prime Minister and Education Minister Dr. Sa'id al-Tall, because of the reservations of the House of Representatives and political circles about their characters and political trends." [quotation marks as published]

Al-Majali's government has also been the target of severe criticism by senior Royal Court officials because of what they describe as the government's "excessive enthusiasm" for the Palestinian-Israeli agreements. They believe that "it would not be wise" to keep the present government because the peace process requires "a different strategy" for dealing with the future Palestinian entity in the occupied Arab territory.

Details Provided

JN0706064594 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 7 Jun 94 pp 1, 24

[Report by Ahmad Shakir]

[Text] A major reshuffle of Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali's cabinet is expected tomorrow. The reshuffle will include 7-10 ministers. As is customary, all ministers will place their resignations at the disposal of the prime minister at a cabinet session today. Matters began to take shape after His Majesty King Husayn's visit to the Prime Ministry last Saturday, during which he presided over a cabinet meeting. He praised the government efforts and the ministers' services. It was

reported that his majesty the king later paid a long visit to Prime Minister al-Majali at his home.

The statements obtained by reporters after his majesty's chairmanship of the cabinet meeting said that Jordan cannot much lag behind other peace tracks and that the challenges facing Jordan and the poor peace coordination with the Palestinian side require a cabinet reshuffle to include all political trends in the country in order to deal with the next phase.

Accordingly, Dr. al-Majali has over the last 48 hours held consultations with a number of deputies and senators in their capacity as representatives of the nation, and with various key figures and political trends so that the cabinet reshuffle will be based on a broader parliamentary base and will be acceptable to the various political trends.

It was reported that some deputies may participate in the government in their personal capacity. Other sources, however, said Prime Minister al-Majali's consultations with some deputies might have been confined to clarifying the various aspects of the Jordanian policy and the accelerating developments of the peace process and whether personalities from outside the House of Representatives are acceptable to the various political blocs and trends in the House.

It was reported that Dr. al-Majali contacted Senator Dhuqan al-Hindawi to appoint him deputy prime minister with large powers to run domestic affairs. However, sources close to al-Hindawi neither confirmed nor denied such reports. It was also reported that Dr. al-Majali, who is conducting most of his consultations from his home, has already met with some deputies and senators. Names from outside the House were mentioned to fill some portfolios. Some sources expected Marwan al-Qasim to be appointed deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs. The names of Dr. Raja'i al-Mu'ashshir, Jawdat al-Subul, 'Aql Biltaji, Dr. Muslih al-Tarawinah, and academicians from Jordanian universities and former ministers were also mentioned.

Once the cabinet reshuffle has taken place, major appointments will be made. These include the post of director general of the Radio and Television Corporation as well as changes in ambassadors, secretaries general [of ministries], and directors of state departments and institutions.

Publications Comment on Resuming Israeli Talks

Weekly Criticizes Decision

JN0706101894 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic 6 Jun 94 p 1

[Text] The pro-western wing in the Jordanian Government has temporarily scored a partial success when it was decided to resume the Jordanian-Israeli talks in Washington today, Monday, and to reinvigorate the Jordanian-American-Israeli economic cooperation committee at the same time.

AL-MAJD has learned that this pro-western team, which claims concern for Jordanian interests, has sought the help of its friends in Washington, London, and elsewhere during the past two weeks in order to pressure the higher Jordanian authorities into abandoning the option of comprehensive solution, easing political and economic rapprochement with Syria and Lebanon, and, consequently, reactivating negotiations and normalization with the Israeli enemy and the Gaza-Jericho protectorate.

AL-MAJD has also learned that the higher authorities, known for their ability to deal with crises, have reluctantly given the pro- western team partial freedom to secure some sort of balance in Jordan's relations with the neighboring states on the eve of King Husayn's visit to Washington.

According to reliable sources, AL-MAJD can emphasize that Jordan will not go too far in its political and economic talks with the Israeli enemy and 'Arafat, and that the strategic option of the higher Jordanian authorities is still that of adherence to Arab coordination and attainment of a comprehensive solution.

AL-MAJD can also affirm that the higher authorities will not risk signing a separate peace treaty with the enemy as desired by the Israeli-American alliance—an alliance that is seeking to weaken the Arab negotiating position by attracting Jordan, terrorizing Lebanon, and singling out Syria.

Paper Defends Decision

JN0606102194 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 6 Jun 94 p 4

[Editorial: "Round Part of Whole"]

[Text] Jordan's decision to press ahead with negotiations on the Jordanian-Israeli peace track reflects, basically, two important considerations that our country as a whole has to take into account.

The first is our sense of great disappointment that Arab coordination has not really ever materialised or bore fruit.

Right from the start of the Madrid talks in October 1991 it was clear, following the Gulf war and the damage that the war inflicted on the Arab body politic, that the minimum level of Arab consensus had been lost. All those so-called Arab coordination sessions since then have been more of a public relations stunt than real team work. What has exacerbated the problem is Israel's explicit determination to strike separate deals on each of the peace tracks. Israel's first breakthrough was with the Palestinians, which drove a big wedge between the Palestine Liberation Organisation, PLO, on the one hand, and the other parties—Jordan, Syria, Lebanon—on the other.

The second important consideration is, now that the negotiations on the Syrian-Israeli track are only awaiting a final

push, inevitably carrying with them the Lebanese, Jordan cannot afford to be left behind without any real bargaining chips in its hands. That situation, so many sensible Jordanians have argued, is not in the best interests of the country. Hence the necessity of the latest step to resume the talks in Washington today and perhaps to move them later to the region for practical purposes.

Needless to say, there is nothing that should stop Jordan and Israel from settling the issue of their common border in accordance to International law as embodied in the 1992 League of Nations terms of the British mandate over Palestine and Jordan. A settlement of this issue can then be turned into a crucial precedent, for Syria and Lebanon, and also the Palestinians, to follow. Nothing is more important here than for Israel to confine itself to internationally acknowledged boundaries, leaving in the process the occupied Arab territories to their rightful owners. The war issue is of course more complex. Israel has so far insisted that since water was scarce the two countries should embark on joint projects to generate new sources of water. That Jordan welcomes but only after it gets its rightful share of the joint resources.

What we hope will result from the Washington talks is concrete movement towards lasting and comprehensive peace in the region. If Jordan can get the Israelis to concede on Jordanian rights on borders and water, if it can get the Israelis to accept the principle of withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, then those talks that are to be held in Washington tomorrow will be a major step towards achieving that peace.

Russian Government Official Arrives on Visit

JN0306121794 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 3 Jun 94

[Text] (Aleksandr Ozolin), head of the Russian Foreign Organizations Department [title as heard], arrived in Amman via the King Husayn Bridge this morning on a visit to Jordan lasting several days. During the visit, he will meet with a number of officials.

The guest was received by representatives of the Jordanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Russian ambassador in Amman.

Memo Signed To Promote Ties

JN0606122294 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 6 Jun 94 p 3

[Text] Amman (PETRA)—The chambers of industry of Moscow and Amman Sunday signed a memorandum of understanding and cooperation aimed at stimulating economic and trade relations.

Head of the Amman Chamber of Industry Khaldun Abu-Hassan said after the signing that the two sides agreed on exploring ways to launch joint industrial ventures and exchange information on organising trade fairs.

Russia and Jordan will also facilitate the missions of visiting businesspersons from either side and help them organise seminars and conferences designed to promote trade between the two countries, he added.

During the talks, held at the Amman Chamber of Industry, the two sides reviewed ways to boost the volume of trade and agreed on setting up related joint committee or a business council, Mr. Abu- Hassan said.

The head of the Russian team underlined his country's desire to set up joint investment companies with Jordanian businesspersons and the exchange of industrial expertise.

The Jordan News Agency PETRA, quoted the head of the team as saying that the Moscow chamber represents an area comprising 20 million people and houses 34 per cent of the Russian technological industries which earn nearly 25 per cent of the gross national product (GNP).

At the outset of the meeting, Mr. Abu-Hassan presented a briefing on Jordanian industries, Jordan's trade with Russia and prospects for investments in the two countries.

Jordan has strong and growing relations with Russia in all fields and has been importing an average of $50 million worth of Russian products annually, against $37 million worth of Jordanian products, said Mr. Abu-Hassan.

"We look forward to increasing the volume of trade with Russia and launching joint industrial ventures in the two countries," added Mr. Abu-Hassan.

PETRA quoted the Amman Chamber of Industry chief as saying that the two countries have been exchanging food supplies, electrical appliances, construction material, furniture timber as well as computers.

Al-Majali, German Delegation Discuss al-'Aqabah, Iraq

JN0606172094 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 6 Jun 94

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali received at his office in the Prime Ministry today a German parliamentary delegation, headed by Dr. Hans Stercken, chairman of the Foreign Policy Committee in the German parliament .

Dr. al-Majali explained Jordan's position on the peace process, which is based on adherence to a comprehensive solution on all tracks and in all fields, and enhancing security and peace in the region.

Dr. al-Majali hailed the German role in supporting Jordan and its active role in the peace process.

Discussions at the meeting dealt with developing the friendly bilateral relations and expanding cooperation in various fields.

For his part, Dr. Stercken expressed his country's support for Jordan's firm position on the peace process, and

he hailed the close cooperation between the two countries. He also showed much interest in the subject of siege imposed on al-'Aqabah and the Iraqi people.

He said he will visit Iraq to get acquainted with, and study the subject on the ground in order to help ease the burden of siege and suffering of the Iraqi people.

The meeting was attended by Dr. Khalid al-Zu'bi, minister of state for legal and parliamentary affairs, and the German ambassador in Amman.

Media Switch References to Warring Yemeni Forces

JN0506115694 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 5 Jun 94 p 3

[Text] Amman—A few days after they were criticised for their "bias" coverage of the civil war in Yemen, Jordan's official media have stopped referring to forces of southern Yemeni leader Ali Salim al-Bid as "secessionists."

While they are still calling loyalists of Yemeni President Ali Abdallah Salih the "government forces," the media are now covering the activities and statements of the South Yemeni forces as those of the Yemen Socialist Party.

The media were last week severely criticised by a group of journalists and writers for their "biased coverage" of the five-week civil war in Yemen pitting the forces of Mr. Salih against those of Mr. al-Bid amidst little chances for a decisive military victory for either side.

In a letter to Minister of Information Jawad al-'Anani, the group urged a review of the media's policy in covering the Yemeni war and an end to its "encouragement of the illusion of a military solution" to the conflict in the Arabian Peninsula country.

This review seems to have taken place, said one observer.

A seasoned political analyst who held a number of cabinet portfolios in the past said: "It was harsh to refer to the southerners as secessionists and if this (position) has been reconsidered then it is a good thing."

Jordan has repeatedly denied having taken sides in the Yemeni conflict, defending the media's reference to the warring parties as "government" and "secessionists" as factual statements because Aden seceded from the Yemeni republic.

Many, however, questioned this argument, emphasising that Jordan should be extremely careful in maintaining its neutrality on the conflict because of the large role it had played in mediating between Mr. Salih and Mr. al-Bid before war erupted on May 4.

The Kingdom has said it will not interfere in internal affairs of Yemen but stressed its support for the integrity of Yemen and the unity of its people.

"We should encourge the spirit of unity and invite the spirit of unity and invite the southerners to maintain it but we should be careful not to antagonise he south," said the analyst, who demanded anonymity.

Paper Criticizes UN Resolution on Yemen

JN0406153694 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0345 GMT 4 Jun 94

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Security Council's Resolution Helps the Continuation of War," the newspaper AL-ASWAQ says: The UN Security Council was not expected to condemn the secession in Yemen because it did not meet for this purpose in the first place. The preparations for convening this council would not have succeeded had its [draft] resolution highlighted both [Yemeni] unity and the need for all parties to commit themselves to it.

National unity in any Arab country means stability, impregnability, dignity, and the possibility of construction. Moreover, pan-Arab unity means a radical solution to the political, economic, social, and even demographic impasse now experienced by the Arab countries. It has never been an objective of the UN Security Council to achieve such noble Arab goals.

When addressing our national and pan-Arab issues, the UN Security Council used to stand alongside the parties opposed to the [Arab] nation and its future. Even when compelled to flatter us in some resolution, the Security Council used diplomatic language that meant nothing on the ground and was devoid of any applicable mechanisms. Successive Security Council resolutions on the Palestine question are the best examples of resolutions issued only to be entered in the archives. Meanwhile, resolutions serving the interests of the big powers are immediately implemented.

AL-ASWAQ adds: The formula used in Security Council Resolution [No. 924 on Yemen] will achieve only one objective, namely, to deepen the secession and fragmentation, perpetuate the [Yemeni] war, and expand its scope from Aden to Sanaa. As we do not rule out the presence of the desire and interest by one or more international party to perpetuate and expand the Yemeni war, we will continue to find it strange that some Arab positions advertently or inadvertently foster the continuation of war and encourage the secession. The fire raging in Yemen is close to every Arab house, although some people may think it will not expand.

Defense Minister on Israeli Raids, Resistance

NC0406074294 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 4 Jun 94

[Telephone interview with Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul in al-Biqa' valley, by Ramadan Husayn in Cairo; date not given; from the "Dialogue From Afar" program—recorded]

[Text] [Husayn] Mr. Minister, how is the security situation in light of the Israeli raids against southern Lebanon?

[Dallul] Israel frequently perpetrates unjustified acts of aggression against Lebanon, its land, and its people—women, children, and the elderly. Lately, it has even burned crops to shake Lebanon, weaken its people, disturb its security and stability, and harm its sovereignty. We are looking to the world community and our Arab brothers. We urgently need their help and support. We are also waiting for the Security Council to shoulder its responsibility, and we expect the world to condemn the Israeli aggressions. What sin have the children, women and old men committed that they should be shelled? Recently, Israel attacked our children with 500-kg and 1000-kg bombs. The soil, the crops, and the rocks have turned black. Israel burned the crops that are the only livelihood of the sons of Lebanon.

[Husayn] Has Lebanon held contacts with the Security Council permanent members and other influential parties to stop the Israeli aggressions?

[Dallul] We have filed a complaint with the UN Security Council, and we have held contacts with the permanent members. We also informed all influential countries of the Israeli acts of aggression against the people of Lebanon. We hope the world, especially the Security Council, will react favorably by condemning Israel and forcing it to stop these repeated acts of aggression against our people and land.

[Husayn] Mr. Minister, what do you think are the objectives of the Israeli raids?

[Dallul] Israel wants to cause cracks in Lebanese society. It wants to continue its occupation of Lebanese territory, and it wants to force us to confront the Resistance, which is performing its duty against the occupation. Resistance is a legitimate right of every people whose land is occupied. This has happened in Europe and the entire world. When territory comes under occupation, the people of this territory must confront the occupation. Resistance is a legitimate right of our people, and what we are doing is a cry in the face of the occupier, a cry that it leave our land and stop its aggression against our people. Israel also wants to stir up domestic sedition in Lebanese society. But the people of Lebanon are confronting the aggressions with a united position bordering on heroism.

Hizballah's Nasarallah Meets Iran's Velayati in Damascus

LD0406110994 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 4 Jun 94

[Text] The secretary-general of the Hizballah Islamic revolutionary movement of Lebanon met the foreign minister of our country ['Ali Akbar Velayati] in Damascus this morning. According to a report by the Central News Unit correspondent, at that meeting, which took place at the Iranian embassy, the latest developments in Lebanon—especially the recent onslaught of the Zionist regime against the southern parts of that country—were assessed.

Sayyid Hasan Nasarallah, describing the various aspects of this invasion, stressed: These provocations of the enemy will never be able to shake the resolve of the region's Muslims to liberate Islamic lands. He said: The presence of the masses of the Lebanese people, groups, and personalities in the funeral procession for the martyrs of this violent onslaught is indicative of the firm resolve of Muslims to remain steadfast and continue the path of the martyrs.

Mr. Velayati for his part expressed the condolences of the leadership, government, and people of Iran and emphasized: The Zionist's motive behind this aggression is the expansion of their domination over Islamic and Arab countries.

Iranian Foreign Ministry Official Khonsari Visits

NC0606165294 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 6 Jun 94

[Text] Mohammad Kazem Khonsari, director general of Middle East and North African affairs in the Iranian Foreign Ministry, today called on Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz; Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams-al-Din, chairman of the Higher Islamic Shiite Council; and 'Allamah Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah. He said that his country supports Lebanon's unity, its people's defense of their legitimate rights, and its stance against the Israeli savage challenges and attacks, noting that Lebanon's brothers will not hesitate to support it in all areas.

Al-Khonsari denied that Iran has any knowledge of the fate of Israeli airman Ron Arad and criticized international silence about the kidnapping of Mustafa al-Dirani.

Government Affirms Support for Hizballah Resistance

NC0606191994 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 6 Jun 94

[Text] Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi and Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri have made separate telephone

calls to 'Allamah Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah. They discussed with him the recent Zionist assaults on the Ba'labakk area.

Al-Hariri sent Lebanese Minister of State for Finance Fu'ad Sinyurah to the headquarters of Hizballah's Consultative Council. Sinyurah, speaking for the Lebanese Government, affirmed that the government support for the resistance will continue until the occupied territories are liberated.

Sinyurah announced: We express our appreciation for Hizballah's martyrs who gave their lives to defend the homeland and confront Israeli arrogance.

Meanwhile, Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz described the Zionists' recent brutal attacks on Ba'labakk as an attempt to damage Syrian-Lebanese relations.

Speaking to the newspaper AL-SAFIR, Buwayz said that Israel has lately been exerting pressure on the Lebanese Government to make it halt the resistance operations against the Zionists in south Lebanon. He pointed out, however, that the Lebanese Government believes that as long as the Zionists occupy parts of the Lebanese territory, resistance is the people's legitimate right.

The Lebanese foreign minister referred to the total backing that the Lebanese public and their various political factions are giving to the resistance movement. He accused the United Nations of weakness and inability to adopt firm resolutions to halt the Zionist attacks on Lebanon.

Rocket, Artillery Duels Continue in South

Rockets Fired on Town, SLA Post

NC0706101494 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 0930 GMT 7 Jun 94

[Text] Our military correspondent reports that a South Lebanese Army [SLA] post in Kawkaba came under terrorist machine-gun and RPG fire today. This was followed by artillery and rocket bombardment of the same post from terrorist positions in Qilya, Yuhmur, Maydun, and 'Ayn al-Tinah. There were no casualties. The SLA returned the fire with the appropriate weapons.

Our correspondent adds that the terrorists then fired rockets on Marj 'Uyun area from their positions in Mashgharah and 'Ayn al- Tinah. SLA and Israeli artillery are returning the fire.

Israeli Post, SLA Patrol Attacked

NC0706111594 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 7 Jun 94

[Text] A resistance group attacked an Israeli position near al-Ahmadiyah in al-Biqa' this morning. The attack was followed by violent clashes between the resistance fighters and the occupation forces, which shelled the area with artillery.

At 0930 today, another resistance group attacked a patrol of agent Lahd militia [South Lebanese Army] on the Kawkaba-Dallafah road inside the occupied zone. The two sides then traded artillery fire.

UNIFIL Fijian Soldier Killed by Gunmen Near Tyre

NC0306193194 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1900 GMT 3 Jun 94

[Text] Timour Goksel, official spokesman of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon [UNIFIL], has stated that unknown gunmen riding in a car opened fire at a Fijian contingent checkpoint in the Qana area in Tyre district at 2100 today, killing one Fijian soldier and wounding another. A quick investigation was opened into the incident.

Israeli Reinforcement Reportedly Continues in South

NC0606165794 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 6 Jun 94

[Text] According to information from the eastern sector of the south, the Israeli occupation forces have deployed troop reinforcements and armored vehicles in their Kawkaba and Suq al-Khan positions. They also strafed the surrounding hills and woods and shelled the hills and woods in Mashgharah and 'Ayn al-Tinah.

Enemy aircraft meanwhile continued their psychological warfare against the citizens of the south. Helicopters overflew Iqlim al- Tuffah and al-Nabatiyah this afternoon.

This morning Kafr Rumman's eastern hills were the target of sporadic bombardment with incendiary shells from the enemy's positions on the al-Tuhrah Hills.

In another development, the citizen Jum'ah Shihadah al-Khalid died this morning when a fragmentation bomb detonated inside a grove in the al-Shawakir areas south of Tyre where he was tilling the land. His body was transferred to Tyre's Jabal 'Amil Hospital. It is noteworthy that the al-Shawakir area is close to al-Rashidiyah camp, which was formerly the target of repeated Israeli artillery attacks. The citizens appealed to the concerned officials to comb the area to make sure there are no more unexploded shells.

Timor Goksel, the official spokesman for the UN Interim Force in Lebanon, announced that a soldier serving with the Fijian contingent died today of injuries sustained during a clash with Hizballah last Friday.

Hizballah Units Said To Arrive in Iqlim al-Tuffah Area

NC0606144694 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 1330 GMT 6 Jun 94

[Text] Our correspondent reports that al-Nabatiyah residents are tense following rumors that terrorists belonging to the Faithful Resistance and Hizballah have arrived in the Iqlim al-Tuffah region from the al-Biqa' during the past two days. The residents think that the terrorists have arrived to carry out operations against the Israeli army and the South Lebanese Army [SLA] in retaliation for the kidnapping of Mustafa al-Dirani and the raid against the Hizballah training center near Ba'labakk, knowing that this will expose the residents to danger.

Informed security sources told our correspondent that the Israeli army and the SLA will respond with force to any terrorist operation carried out by Hizballah terrorists and their followers.

Lahd Refutes Report on Israel's Stealing Water

NC0406084294 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 0700 GMT 4 Jun 94

[Text] In a statement he issued yesterday, South Lebanese Army Commander Major General Antoine Lahd dealt with what was called the stealing of water from the al-Litani and al-Wazzani rivers by Israel. He said: I do not know how a UN body like the Economic and Social Commission of West Asia, ESCWA, permitted itself to endorse a report of an official nature on a sensitive issue like the stealing of water by one state from another neighboring state—even though they are hostile to each other—without relying on tangible evidence and without conducting a direct field study to arrive at its conclusions.

Maj. Gen. Lahd affirmed that this is what the ESCWA has done. According to a statement by 'Umar Tuqan, the official responsible for the water program in ESCWA, to a BBC correspondent last Wednesday, it was content just to collect available reports and articles published by some magazines and newspapers on the issue of water in west Asian countries and then presented the results of its work to the member states without confirming the correctness of these reports and articles.

Maj. Gen. Lahd added: The Lebanese Government picked up this report and began clamoring about dangers that only exist in its imagination. This comes at a time when Lebanon is neglecting and overlooking a more serious danger, which is undermining Lebanon's sovereignty and threatening its very existence.

He asked: Doesn't the Lebanese Government have enough problems to worry about with regard to the economic situation, the suppression of liberties, and the domination of the nouveax riches and the angels of punishment? Or did it fabricate all this clamor in order to distract people's attention from other matters being cooked up in secret, something that constitute a real danger to Lebanon's entity and future?

Maj. Gen. Lahd concluded: How long will the Lebanese Government continue such lies, false heroism, and distraction of the people from the essence of matters?

UK Embassy Expresses Concern Over Recent Violence

NC0606150394 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1300 GMT 6 Jun 94

[Text] The British Embassy in Beirut today expressed London's extreme concern over the recent escalation of violence in the south, particularly in the wake of the Israeli raid against a Hizballah center near Ba'labakk. The embassy emphasized Britain's position, which fully supports the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 425, and called for the restoration of the Lebanese Government's effective authority over all Lebanese territory.

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Iran's Velayati Meets With al-Asad, Hizballah's Nasrallah

PM0606142094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 5 Jun 94 p 4

[Report by Salwa al-Ustuwani]

[Text] Damascus—Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad has received a message from Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressing Iran's support for Syria in the event of any aggression on it following recent Israeli raids on Lebanon and the escalation in the military situation.

Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati delivered the message to President al-Asad during their meeting in Damascus yesterday. The objective of his visit is to hold talks with senior Syrian officials on conditions in the region, especially the military deterioration in Lebanon and Israel's recent aggression on Hizballah's base in the Lebanese al-Biqa'.

Upon his arrival in the Iranian Embassy in Damascus Velayati met with a Hizballah delegation led by Secretary General Hasan Nasrallah. They discussed developments in the situation in Lebanon in the light of the continued Israeli attacks. Velayati stressed Iran's absolute support for the Lebanese resistance against the Israeli occupation.

Iranian sources in Damascus have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the Hizballah secretary general held talks with some senior Syrian officials on conditions and coordinating positions with Syria.

Army Chief Receives Senior Russian Military Officer

JN0506202194 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1815 GMT 5 Jun 94

[Excerpt] Lieutenant General Hikmat al-Shihabi, chief of staff of the Army and Armed Forces, this evening received Gen. (Mikhail Petrovich Kollysinkov), chief of general staff of the Defense Ministry in the Russian Federation, and his delegation. They reviewed the friendly and cooperative ties between the Armed Forces of Syria and the Russian Federation. They also considered ways to promote these relations in the best interests of the two friendly countries. [passage omitted]

Columnist Criticizes Both Warring Parties in Yemen

JN0306121294 Damascus AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 18 May 94 p 12

["Together on the Road" column by Dr. Fa'iz al-Sa'igh]

[Text] The "victories" the Yemeni leaders are achieving against other Yemeni leaders in the bloody battles on Yemeni territory call for great disgust. How can one Yemeni attack his Yemeni brother before the whole world in this way? How can the Yemeni generations accept the justifications made by both parties, with each party standing in its own bastion and trench, in defense of everything except the Yemeni unity? How can Yemeni history be written in this black period of a unified state?

The Yemeni people throughout the unified homeland vehemently refuse to follow what is taking place. They also strongly condemn these battles, which are being falsely waged in the name of unity. Unity has nothing to do with either the style or the results of these battles, even if they lead to comprehensive Arab unity.

What heinous crime is being committed on the land of the "miserable Yemen" in the name of unity? How can one Yemeni soldier stand to see body of another Yemeni soldier on the side of the road while expressing the "victory" smile and waving the "victory" sign with two fingers in the same way that led the Palestine question to the "Jericho farm" or the Jericho enclave, as some prefer to call it.

Anyone who hears and follows the hysterical statements and counter statements, and who counts the victories achieved by this party against that, will realize the extent of enmity harbored deep inside these souls and the extent of self-hatred and rancor held against the homeland. Had there been no remnants of pan-Arab commitment, these people would have been denied their Arabism, Islamic affiliation, and even their affiliation with this dear homeland and this good land. We testify that the man on this good land is pure and chaste. Moreover, harm is done to this land's history and civilization whenever a wound bleeds or whenever its calm nature is disturbed by a gunshot, whether it is stray or fatal.

Yemen is dying in the name of unity. The Yemeni leaders are vying with one another to fire the "bullet of mercy" at an exhausted body [Yemen] whose history is angry with those who led it to this disastrous fate. I do not believe that anyone can say that I support one renegade against another. This is because both renegades are bitter. Both renegades are leading to a dark tunnel for the miserable Yemen in which chaos is prevailing. Everything in the two Yemens, or rather in the several "Yemens" will be black until further notice or until another generation comes.

Brothers, unity between two countries is an intellectual dialogue and a spiritual convergence, not to mention unity among the sons of one country, the one Yemen, and the one heart. Is it really for the sake of unity that the Yemenis are fighting each other, storming others' homes, and attacking others' families? Or is it rather through this fighting that the Yemenis are actually driving an eternal nail in the coffin of the comprehensive Arab unity? This unity rejects such storming operations and victories. Unity requires a dialogue that will establish the kind of future for which the generations aspire. Let this farce stop before the world, and let its pioneers bring themselves to trial before the tribunal of history. Long live the unity of Yemen.

AL-THAWRAH: Yemeni War 'Could Have Been Averted'

JN0406080894 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0450 GMT 4 Jun 94

[From the press review]

[Text] In a commentary today, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH writes on the fighting raging in Yemen. It stresses that this war, which is not in the interest of Yemen or its people, could have been averted.

After explaining the effects of this war on Yemen's economy, AL- THAWRAH calls on the Yemeni leadership to rise to the level of its national and pan-Arab responsibility, and to respond to the homeland's call and the UN Security Council's demand to stop the massacres and destruction.

The Yemeni people, who are concerned about unity, are certain that what is taking place is not for the sake of unity, which they chose and sought for their future so that they might enjoy safety, security, and progress in all walks of life.

AL-THAWRAH stresses that the continuation of this war threatens the fabric of the Yemeni homeland by fomenting sedition and hostility among the sons of the one homeland.

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH says: The Yemeni leadership must take into consideration the results of continued fighting in terms of casting doubts on the possibility of achieving Arab unity, and consequently, damaging the credibility of the principle of Arab unity, and harming the Arabs' image in the world.

TISHRIN Laments UK Decision To Lift Arms Ban on Israel

JN0306190094 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 28 May 94 p 8

["Opinion" column: "The British Decision" by Ahmad Suwan]

[Text] The British Government's decision to end the ban on arms shipments to Israel is objectionable not only because it was made against the backdrop of unmistakable Israeli intransigence in the peace process, but also because it symbolizes brazen support for the Israeli entity's terrorist and coercive practices in the West Bank and Gaza and in south Lebanon. The reason that prompted the ban in the first place is still there the 1982 Israeli invasion of south Lebanon. The combination of air raids, strafing, piracy, abductions, combing of towns and villages and their devastation and depopulation is an invasion in another guise. By lifting the arms embargo on Israel, the United Kingdom is, in effect, rewarding the Israeli aggressors and furnishing them with the means to bolster their superiority and pursue their recklessness and acts of terror and aggression.

Advancing an alibi for removing the embargo, the United Kingdom cited "encouraging developments in the peace process, specifically the Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho", to quote British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd. More surprisingly, London has made lifting the arms ban on the Arabs conditional on the bilateral talks moving forward. The party that must take the blame for the failure of these talks to advance is Israel itself. This is an example of the double standard in UK policies—one standard for Israel, another against the Arabs.

By ending the ban on arms sales to Israel and making its revocation regarding the Arabs conditional on the peace process making headway, the British Government has set a serious precedent in international relations. Britain has underscored its blind bias toward Israel, its aggressive and terrorist policies, and has stabbed the Arabs and their worthy causes. The British Government defended its decision by citing encouraging developments, sidestepping the facts and the substance of the peace process. Just what are these developments that prompted this decision? Do they include the substitution of Israeli withdrawal as stipulated by UN Security Council resolutions with the redeployment of forces provided for in the self-rule agreement? Is the continuing existence of Jewish settlements and consequently Israeli occupation an encouraging development? Does Israel's responsibility for security and political matters in the self-rule area or its control over roads, crossings, and bridges also rank as encouraging developments? Does the United Kingdom really rate these as truly encouraging developments, or is it knowingly and deliberately pursuing deceptive policies calculated to mislead world opinion and liquidate the Palestinian people's rights?!

The United Kingdom is all too aware that the self-rule plan does not meet the Palestinian people's aspirations. The United Kingdom is equally aware that Israel continues to cling to occupation, and thus is not eligible for any reward. Nor should Israel's repressive machine be rewarded for its savagery and terror. It is not right that the Israeli military should be furnished with what it takes to pursue coercive and genocidal programs.

It is worthwhile to make one thing abundantly clear: Britain's pro-Israel stance is bound to further complicate things in the region. It would have been more helpful if Britain had acted to deter Israel's aggression and brought pressure to bear in the interest of making it comply with UN resolutions. The lifting of the arms embargo will only exacerbate Israel's excesses and intransigence and its rejection of the bases on which the peace process was launched. Britain should have acted to end Israel's recklessness and arrogance, and should have helped the cause of an even-handed and universal peace settlement in the Middle East. SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Missile Attack on Kabul Causes Casualties, Damage

LD0606163994 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 6 Jun 94

[Text] Residential areas of Kabul city were the target of heavy weapons fired by Golboddin-Dostam militia last night.

An official source in the Kabul garrison told a BAKHTAR military correspondent that missiles were fired on Kabul city from the south and southwest, from areas under the control of the shameful militias of Golboddin-Dostam. As a result a number of our compatriots were martyred and injured.

The report adds that in addition to the loss of life, four houses located in the 2d and 11th wards of Kabul city were also destroyed in the course of the missile attack.

Explosion in Mazar-e Sharif Kills Militia Members

LD0606172294 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 6 Jun 94

[Text] Reports from reliable security sources say that last Saturday [4 June], a huge explosion took place in the Huzori Bagh, a five-story building in Mazar-e Sharif, in which at the present the so-called Central Office of Jenbish [National Islamic Movement of North, led by Dostam] is located.

As a result of this explosion a number of militiamen were killed and the building was damaged.

Eye-witnesses say that the number of such explosion has recently increased, which indicates chaos in the militias security systems.

India

Talks With Russian Deputy Prime Minister Continue

Agreement Reached To Increase Trade

BK0406080894 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 3 Jun 94

[Text] India and Russia have agreed to increase bilateral trade up to the 5,000-crore-rupee mark in the next two years. This view was expressed at a meeting of the cochairmen of the Indo- Russian Joint Commission, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, and the deputy prime minister of Russia, Mr. Yuriy F. Yarov, in New Delhi today. Mr. Yarov assured India that Moscow will fully implement the agreement signed during President Yeltsin's visit to New Delhi. He said Russia will try to further rationalize import duties to facilitate speedy imports from India. The talks will continue till Tuesday.

Nuclear Cooperation To Continue

BK0606045194 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 6 Jun 94

[Text] The deputy prime minister of Russia, Mr. Yuriy Yarov, says Indo-Russian cooperation in nuclear science will continue, particularly in the exchange of technology and scientists. He was speaking in Bombay yesterday after visiting the Bhaba Atomic Research Center. Mr. Yarov lauded India's nuclear science development. The Russian deputy prime minister also visited the Mazagaon dock. Mr. Yarov called for joint ventures between India and Russia in the ship-building area.

Technology for Space Research Offered

BK0706040394 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 7 Jun 94

[Text] Russia says it is ready to provide India its technologies for space exploration, aviation, ship building, and transport sectors. The leader of the Russian Center for Scientific and Cultural Cooperation, Ms. Valentina Tereshkova, said this in New Delhi yesterday. She is now in India as part of a Russian delegation which has already visited Bangalore and held discussions with the representatives of the Indian aerospace industry. Ms. Tereshkova is the first woman in space. In an interview, she said the forthcoming visit of the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, to Moscow will give a new impetus to the development of bilateral relations, particularly in cultural and scientific fields.

Study Considers GATT Impact on Economy

BK0506105194 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 5 Jun 94

[Text] A study by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry says the Indian pharmaceutical sector has nothing to fear from the intellectual property rights regime. It said already 85 to 95 percent of the essential drugs are out of patent limits and the remaining drugs will also be off the list by the time the law comes into force in the next 10 years. The study was on the impact of GATT on Indian economy.

The study said prices of drugs will not rise before 2005 AD and this would give the Indian industry sufficient time to build its research and development activities. The study also says India stands to gain by about $4.5 billion by the turn of the century under the new trade setup with benefits of around $1.5 to 2 billion in the initial years. The increase in trade is likely to occur from the tariff reduction on a number of agricultural and industrial products.

Opposition: GATT Not 'An Issue' in By-Elections

BK0606123594 Delhi THE ECONOMIC TIMES in English 1 Jun 94 p 1

[Text] New Delhi 31 May—Even as the heat and dust raised by the campaigning for the seven Lok Sabha and

10 assembly seats has subsided, the outcome has given rise to a new debate in the political circles with the various parties discussing whether the GATT treaty was an issue or not in Thursday's 'trial of strength'.

The provocation for this has come from the Congress(I) which was quick to term its success in winning five of the seven Lok Sabha seats that were at stake as popular endorsement of the government's signing the multilateral trade pact. The party's official spokesman, Mr V N Gadgil, fired the first salvo in this regard when he asserted on Monday that the success of the Congress(I) represented a definite rejection of the Opposition's "propaganda" on GATT.

To buttress his point, Mr Gadgil stressed the fact that all the constituencies which went the Congress(I) way happened to be rural ones and that it clearly showed that the people in the countryside have not bought the Opposition's charge of sell-out by the government.

While the Opposition parties are not as elated as the Congress(I), they nevertheless are not ready to let Mr Gadgil's claim go uncontested. "Who said GATT was an electoral issue," snapped the Janata Dal leader, Mr Jaipal Reddy when asked to react on Mr Gadgil's assertion.

He reeled off detailed statistics to substantiate his contention. "The Congress(I) has not wrested any seat but retained the 5 seats and that too with reduced margins. In UP [Uttar Pradesh], Bihar and Tamil Nadu, which account for 178 Lok Sabha seats, the Congress(I) has come third or fourth. In fact, they have been losing in these states since 1989," the leader of the Janata Dal said.

Mr Reddy further argued that "if anything, the results only show a steady decline of Congress(I)'s influence and the premise that their stand on Gatt stood vindicated was clearly wrong."

Mr Sitaram Yechury, member of the CPI(M) [Communist Party of India—Marxist] politburo, was equally dismissive of Mr Gadgil's contention. "A bogus claim" was how Mr Yechury described the Congress(I)'s statement. "The return of 5 sitting MPs and that too with vastly reduced margins can hardly be described as an index of Congress(I)'s popularity and in no case a popular vindication of its stand on Gatt".

Significantly, the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party], which is pulling in a different direction than the left parties and the Janata Dal on a host of issues, seems to be for a change in agreement with them at least on this one. Mr K N Govindacharya, party's general secretary, hotly disputed the claim of Mr Gadgil. According to him, the elections were not contested on any specific issue like GATT. "The agenda this time was scattered and varied from place to place with the local issues dominating."

The BJP leader went to the extent of calling it an issueless election. Questioning Mr Gadgil's interpretation of his party's performance, Mr Govindacharya was of the opinion that the victory of the ruling party in Madhya Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh had more to do with the 'honeymoon factor' than anything else.

For his part, however, Mr Gadgil remains totally unfazed. Asked to comment on the arguments put forward by the Opposition parties the Congress(I)'s spokesman said that the "Opposition did make the GATT an issue in the by-polls. In fact, if there was one issue they chose to highlight all over, it was GATT and nothing else."

He also remains unimpressed by the opinion in the political circles that the Congress(I) did not perform too well in West Bengal where the CPI(M) had really done its best to use the Union government's stand on GATT as its principal weapon against the Congress(I).

The debate is likely to intensify further, especially when the government brings forward in Parliament the legislations it needs to enact for complying with its obligations under the GATT agreement. And if the Congress(I) is hoping that the outcome would make the Opposition parties relent on their stand, it is certain that its expectations may not quite materialise.

Opposition Stand on GATT, By-Elections Viewed

BK0606124594 Delhi THE ECONOMIC TIMES in English 2 Jun 94 p 6

[Editorial: "GATT Out"]

[Text] Opposition leaders say that GATT was not an issue in the recent by-elections. They are shaken by the fact that they failed to make a dent in the Congress armour. Their frenzied rallies and nightmarish stories about MNCs [multinational corporations] invasion were conveniently forgotten. But it was an issue, says the Congress spokesman, Mr V N Gadgil, gleefully. He interprets the election results as vindication of his party's stand on GATT and the voters' rejection of the opposition propaganda. Considering the asinine way in which both sides presented the case for and against GATT in the rural areas, it would seem that they think voters are morons. The party strategists' confusion was ably summed up by the BJP's [Bharatiya Janata Party] general secretary, the 'whizchalak' [whiz kid] Govindacharya, when he said the elections were not contested on any specific issue like GATT and the agenda was dominated by local issues.

In that statement lies a glimmer of political understanding. Except when there is a charismatic leader, elections tend to get fought on local issues. Like the politician, the voter wants to know what he or she will get out of the polls. Voters are willing to forgive a leader his corruption provided he can get things done for his constituency. Voters can be united on one issue only when there is a fear of a systemic breakdown, when the

arrogance of power rides roughshod over citizens' basic rights or a weak central authority allows the emergence of local dons. Voters then demand a drastic change and vote with a vengeance to achieve their goal. Political skill lies in watching the swing of the pendulum—the ruling party's task is to slow it down and the opposition's to accelerate it.

Experience has made the Indian voter wary. He has noted that non-Congress governments do not impart a better direction. He then gives them a thump on the head, and the Congress soon restores the familiar status quo. And it's back to local issues again, at which Congress leaders have shown themselves more adept than the opposition ones who all vie for national glory right from the outset. The opposition would fare better if they borrowed President Clinton's slogan and put up a modification in all their party offices: "It's the local economy, stupid".

Need To Improve Ties With U.S. Stressed

BK0606142794 Calcutta ANANDABAZAR PATRIKA in Bengali 25 May 94 p 4

[By Suman Chattopadhya]

[Text] The Rao-Clinton joint news conference just concluded. When all of us were coming down the stairs of the White House after the conference, a young journalist from Gujarat, who was a member of the prime minister's entourage, loudly told a senior journalist from THE WASHINGTON POST, "Had this been our country then at least for the sake of courtesy, we would have asked your president some questions, but you have insulted our prime minister by not asking him any questions." The American journalist was not at all offended by this remark. He smiled and softly told the youth to come with his prime minister when he visits the White House after five years. He then added that at that time, you will not find us as indifferent.

This spontaneous anger of the unexperienced Indian journalist was 100 percent genuine. It is really difficult for professional Indian journalists to tolerate the disregard shown toward their prime minister by American journalists. This proves that American journalists do not give any importance to the country where about one sixth of the total world population lives.

Rajiv Gandhi was able to create a lot of enthusiasm in the U.S. media during his first visit to the United States in 1985, but Narasimha Rao failed to generate even a fraction of that enthusiasm. The major U.S. newspapers gave wide coverage to the press conference which was addressed by Rajiv Gandhi at the National Press Club in Washington. This time, the newspapers thought it a waste to spare space to cover Rao. During Rajiv Gandhi's visit, THE NEW YORK TIMES criticized the Reagan administration for trying to impress Gandhi by showing robots to him. The newspaper said "India must be reckoned with in deeper terms than by displaying robots or space capsules to as sophisticated a man as Rajiv Gandhi." This time, due to the request made by the Indian Embassy, only THE WASHINGTON POST agreed to write a short report on Rao's visit. It wrote: "A small bald figure in a Congress Party grey suit, a man with a shy manner and a low voice, a man who is a total stranger to the (?sound bite) [as published], the Indian prime minister is not easily recognizable as a politician." It is unfortunate for the senior, learned, and experienced prime minister of India that popular television networks like NBC or ABC did not feel it necessary to give even one minute's coverage to him.

Did Rao really deserve the neglect which was shown him by the U.S. media? Rajiv Gandhi was able to attract American journalists due to his amiable disposition, westernized outlook, and alluring personality. Rao had something valuable in his pocket which the Americans should have been attracted to, that is, a market economy. The media did not give much importance to Narasimha Rao this time as they are not very aware of the developments which are taking place in the Indian subcontinent. Despite this, there is no denying the fact that India will soon become very important to the U.S. media just as China has become. The Clinton administration was reluctant to give most favored nation treatment to Beijing as its human rights record was not satisfactory. This enraged the U.S. media. The U.S. media is of the opinion that nothing should be done which would hamper bilateral trade ties with China.

Americans continuously shed tears for the cause of democracy, but why is the U.S. media so keen to keep the communist dictators of Beijing happy. This is so because their only objective is trade. If Beijing does not get most favored nation status due to the rashness of Clinton, then U.S. industrialists will be affected and the interests of the country will be hampered. Their main objective is to protect the economic interests of the United States. It should be achieved at any cost even if it is necessary to renounce the country's policies. It has been observed that Beijing did not make any special efforts to secure most favored nation status. The industrial corporations and the U.S. media are working together to protect the interests of the Chinese leaders, Deng Xiaoping and Li Peng.

India will also be able to acquire this importance after the United States becomes involved in its market. The first and foremost requirement is to attract U.S. capital. During his visit to the United States, to some extent Narasimha Rao has been able to attract U.S. businessmen to India. This is the most significant aspect of his visit to that country. These people were able to realize the amount of profit they can make by investing in India. It is true they have been impressed by the reform measures initiated by Rao and Manmohan. U.S. businessmen have started realizing that this country of hermits and snake charmers have a middle class population of about 200 million people, who have great purchasing power. There was no one in the United States to speak in favor of India in the past. At present, a lobby of industrialists has been formed in favor of India. Some

key persons of giant U.S. corporations have also joined this group. A new horizon of prospects has been created in front of their eyes—the largest free market of the 21st century.

Their eagerness towards this country is new and it must be admitted that India will gain from it. The first benefit is economic. This is because India is desperately in need of foreign capital, particularly in the sphere of infrastructure. The second gain is political. Due to growing U.S. interests in India, other sensitive political issues like Kashmir and the nonproliferation issue will gradually lose significance. President Clinton and his colleagues did not make any attempt to embarrass Rao on these issues during his recent visit. The main reason behind this is pressure from industrialists. If the United States remains passive on these issues, then Islamabad will have to suffer. In fact, it is the intention of India to blunt the sharp mouth of Islamabad.

To sum up, it may be said that in this post Cold War era, it is essential to improve ties with the United States. It is necessary to play the economic card well to establish this relationship. Narasimha Rao's visit has created prospects for the establishment of friendly relations between the two countries. This relationship will be further strengthened if the pledges given by Rao and Manmohan regarding economic reforms are speedily implemented. Once capital is invested in this country, then it is bound to influence the White House and the U.S. media. After this, if the Indian prime minister goes to address a joint news conference with the U.S. president, then all cameras will be focussed on the Indian prime minister. This will fulfill the predictions made by the American journalist to the Gujarati youth.

Finance Minister Outlines Disinvestment Plan

BK0206121794 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 29 May 94 p 1

[By Santanu Saikia]

[Text] Finance Minister Manmohan Singh has estimated that disinvestment of shares of public sector undertakings (PSUs) in 1994-95 can mop up as much as Rs [rupees] 8000 crore, twice the amount earmarked for mobilisation in the budget estimates.

Beyond the Rs 4000 crore mark, receipts from disinvestment will be used to reduce escalating Government debt, Singh said in a note to the Cabinet last week.

Though scalded by a Public Accounts Committee (PAC) indictment on the manner in which shares were disinvested in 1990-91, Singh has decided to push ahead with a bold disinvestment programme this year too. He has identified 28 PSUs whose shares would be off-loaded.

Besides the traditional auction mechanism, two new routes have been identified for disinvesting PSU shares. One is to ride piggyback on PSUs when they tap the stock market to expand their equity base. Disinvestments would be clubbed with a premium equity or rights issue of a PSU.

The other new method would be to directly tap the Global Depository receipts (GDR) market for large-scale disinvestments as foreign markets have the necessary depth to absorb large issues of risk capital. Riding piggyback with a PSU flotation in the GDR market is an additional mechanism that may be tapped.

In a marked departure from previous disinvestment programmes, Singh has proposed equal sharing of proceeds between PSUs and Government. Half the funds mopped up through disinvestment will go PSUs, to take care of their own internal requirements.

The note said auctions will be held several times during the year. The public issue route will be open throughout the year, though the preferred time of entry will be when there is sufficient buoyancy in the market.

Of the 237 PSUs in the country, only 37 qualify for disinvestment based on the yardstick of consistent profitability over the last three years, and large free reserves equal to or higher than the paid-up capital (which can give rise to a bonus issue subsequently). Some PSUs have not been taken up for disinvestment despite being profitable, as the free reserves are not large enough vis-a-vis the paid-up capital.

After completion of all formalities, including capital restructuring and capitalisation, the following companies have been identified for disinvestment: Bharat Petroleum, Cochin Refineries, IBP [expansion unknown], Lubrizo, ONGC [Oil and Natural Gas Commission], OIL [expansion unknown], Indian Oil, HOC [expansion unknown], IPCL [Indian Petrochemicals Corporation Limited], VSNL [expansion unknown], MTNL [Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited], BHEL [Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited], Nyveli Lignite Corp, Andrew Yule, ITI [expansion unknown], Hind Teleprinters, BEL [Bharat Electronics Limited], BEML [expansion unknown], Shipping Corp, Air India, Dredging Corp, IRCON [Indian Railway Construction Company], NALCO [expansion unknown], HMT [Hindustan Machine Tools], SAIL [Steel Authority of India], State Trading Corporation, Mineral and Metals Trading Corporation and MSTC [expansion unknown].

PSUs like Steel Authority of India (SAIL), HMT and State Trading Corporation will have to wait in the wings until adequate capital restructuring takes place. And units like Hindustan Zinc, Hindustan Copper, Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilisers and Fertilizers & Chemicals Travancore Limited, which lack a friendly investors' perspective, will not be offloaded until the outlook improves.

Sensitive PSUs—from the national view point—Hindustan Auronatics, Central Warehouse Corporation, Cotton Corporation of India etc—will not qualify for disinvestment.

In the negative list will also be shares where disinvestment has brought Government holdings down to the critical level of 51 per cent. They are Hindustan Petroleum Ltd and Madras Refineries.

Shares of Indian Oil, Oil India, ONGC, Air India, Lubrizol, IBP and Hindustan Teleprinters will be sold only after adequate capitalisation of free reserves takes place, by way of bonus shares issued to the Government.

If shares are sold by public auction, the minimum bid will continue to be at Rs 25,000 or the value of 100 shares, whichever higher. The reserve price of shares will-be fixed in consultation with the International Development Bank of India and Industrial Finance Corporation of India. Ten per cent of the bid value will have to be deposited with authorities before bidding starts.

Prithvi Missile Said 'Far Superior' to Patriot, Scud

BK0706045594 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 7 Jun 94

[Commentary by Journalist Venkatnarain]

[Text] India appears all set to induct and deploy the short range surface-to-surface missile, Prithvi, with the Army successfully conducting the second user trial of this indigenously developed world class weapon system yesterday. Prithvi was already tested a dozen times by the Defense Research and Development Organization over a five-year period between 1988 and 1993. Last Saturday, the Army began the crucial preinduction trial phase with its first user trial. Yesterday's launch was to the missile's maximum range of 250 kms and all the mission requirements were achieved. The entire exercise of the user trials is likely to be completed by the end of next month. Prithvi will then be cleared for induction into the defense forces. There may be at least six more user trials in battlefield conditions.

The Army has opted for Prithvi with a shorter ranger of 150 kms. These missiles have the capability of carrying the more lethal one ton warhead payload. However, the Indian Air Force is opting for the 250 km range version to safeguard its forward air bases as well as to bring enemy forward bases within Prithvi's range. This will carry half a ton warhead.

When Prithvi's first experimental launch was successful in 1988, Western security analysts could hardly believe that India could develop the missile system entirely on its own. When Prithvi's induction and deployment seemed imminent in 1992, the United States imposed trade sanctions on India. They are still in force, but have not prevented our scientists from developing this liquid propelled new generation ballistic missile. Prithvi's liquid engine enables its flight to be controlled through real time commands on board computer. [sentence as heard] Its altitude and range thus become greatly flexible and it has six alternate preprogrammed trajectories. All these make it far superior to the Patriot and Scud missiles which performed dismally during the Gulf war. Prithvi's designers and main users see it as an accurate weapons system that can deliver very specific military objectives ranging from a tactical battlefield, heavy artillery support system to long range knocking off of enemy supplies by striking at bridges, roads, air fields, railroads, marshalling yards, and so on.

Prithvi's induction and deployment into the defense forces will certainly enhance India's overall security by acting as a deterrent. Once its sister missiles like the Trishul, the Akash, the Nag, and the Agni make their way into the defense forces, any enemy will have to think more than twice before launching a conventional military adventure against India.

Decline in Navy's Submarine Capability Viewed

BK0606102194 Bombay NAVBHARAT TIMES in Hindi 31 May 94 p 1, 12

[Report by Ranjit Kumar]

[Text] The induction of one more indigenously built submarine into the Indian Navy may give a feeling of temporary relief to the Navy, but it has to get ready for the days when its submarine capability will continue to decline in the coming years. With the induction of this German designed Type-1500 submarine built at the Indian Naval Dockyard, the number of submarines in the Indian Navy has gone up to 19, but India's submarine capability will continue to decline from next year. To compensate for the expected shortfall and to maintain strike capability, the Indian Navy has prepared a 15-year plan, but there is no possibility of implementing the plan due to a lack of financial resources.

At the end of the seventies, the Indian Navy had acquired eight Foxtrot class submarines from the Soviet Union. These submarines are more than 25 years old now, meaning end of their life span. One of these submarines was retired last year. Now these Foxtrot class submarines are in line for retirement one after another. Thus, all Foxtrots will be retired in the next five to six years. If no new submarines are added, the number of submarines India operates will be reduced to 12.

Other than the Foxtrot class of submarines, the Indian Navy has eight 'Kilo' class submarines from Russia. These submarines were acquired by the end of the eighties. During the same time, two German H.D.W. Type-1500 submarines were directly purchased. An agreement with Germany was reached where it will assist in the design and building of four such submarines for the Indian Navy. India has already built two of these submarines, but the Indian Government has not taken any decision to build the other two because of lack of finances. It costs four billion rupees to build a submarine and in the current year only 27.38 billion have been allocated to the Navy out of the defense budget—about 13 percent of the total defense budget. It is paradoxical for the Navy that it not only has to fix funds for the new

submarines to replace the retiring Foxtrots from this limited budget, but it also has to goad the government into giving a green signal for the construction of a new aircraft carrier to replace the retiring air craft carrier Vikrant. The construction of an aircraft carrier could cost 10 billion rupees. The Navy also has to find financial resources for the timely completion of some other now under-construction modern warships. These are all top-priority plans for the Navy and it cannot shirk the responsibility of implementing them by describing one plan as less important than another. Now the onus rests with the government to take new initiatives to maintain the submarine capability.

Indians have acquired the unique experience of submarine construction under German license at the Mazagaon Naval Dockyard, which has given the confidence to the Indian scientists that they can build indigenously designed submarines. Meanwhile, the Indian Government retains the right to build two more submarines under the German license. Although Prime Minister Narasimha Rao, while handing over the submarine INS Shankul to the Navy at the Mazagaon Naval Dockyard in Bombay, said that more budget will be allocated for the Navy in view of the immense sea challenges posed to it, he gave no hint as to when the construction of the next submarine will commence. It looks like the capability acquired by the Indian Naval Dockyard will remain unutilized. The director general of the Mazagaon Dockyard also urged the prime minister to direct the dockyard to build more submarines to use the acquired facilities.

The first submarine under the German design was built two years ago. This makes it clear that it takes up to two years to build a submarine. So, even if India gives an order now to build another submarine, it will be two years before a new submarine is inducted. Obviously, India now will have to pay special attention to maintaining its submarine capability during the transitional period. In fact, in view of the possibility of retiring Foxtrots one after another, the Defense Ministry should have ordered the construction of new submarines long ago to maintain continuity in the submarine building process. With this option unavailable now, it is feared that the Indian Navy's submarine capability will continue to decline in the coming years.

According to naval experts, the Foxtrot series of submarines will prove ineffective in the modern naval warfare scenario. Moreover, these submarines remain in dock for maintenance and repair work more than half the time. Naval sources say that these submarines have become so old their maintenance is proving too costly for the Navy. That is why they cannot be considered effective for strategic reasons.

While the Indian Navy's submarine capability will continue to decline in the coming years, the Pakistan Navy is restless to acquire three most sophisticated submarines. For the time being, Pakistan has eight submarines and this number will go up to 11 or 12 with the induction of new submarines. Pakistan soon is going to purchase three 'Agosta' series of sophisticated submarines from France. Pakistan also is going to receive P-3-C Orion aircraft, which are used for antisubmarine search and destroy operations. With the help of three such aircraft, Pakistan can render the Indian Naval fleet ineffective.

Other than Pakistan, the Chinese Navy is also a cause of serious concern for India because its submarines have been seen strolling in the Andaman Sea in the name of cooperation with the Burmese Navy. China at present has more than 100 submarines, out of which 20 are nuclear powered. China's 'Xia' class of submarines can even fire long-range ballistic missiles. In view of the submarine capabilities of China and Pakistan, the strong possibility of declining Indian capability is a cause of strategic concern.

Article Claims Rao 'Stronger Than Ever'

BK0606060294 Delhi THE PIONEER in English 2 Jun 94 p 9

[Article by Ajoy Base: "Stronger Than Ever"]

[Text] Mr P V Narasimha Rao is perhaps the first Prime Minister of this country to approach the fourth year of his five-year term in office looking actully stronger than he did when he first assumed power.

The outcome of the recent round of by-elections spread across the country may or may not be wholly reflectvie of the popular mood, but it has certainly served to further boost Mr Narasimha Rao's position. Even if one were to view the Congress victories in Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Himachal pradesh, Punjab, Orissa and Andhra Pradesh as individual aberrations, there surely must be some lesson to be drawn from the fact that out of 18 parliamentary and assembly seats which went to the hustings, the ruling party won as many as 10 while its two main national opponents, BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] and Janata Dal, managed respectively two and none.

This relative supremacy of the Congress; under Mr Narasimha Rao's leadership over political rivals is all the more creditworthy in the light of the party's performance in bypolls under past Prime Ministers in mid-term. Both Mrs Indira Gandhi and her son and successor looked distinctly vulnerable after their honeymoon period with the electoral had worn off and invariably tended to lose bypolls: And as for non-Congress Prime Minister of yore, none of them even managed to last at the Centre long enough the middle of their full term in office.

There are other crucial differences between Mr Narasimha Rao and his predecessors in the Prime Minister's chair. The pupularity graphs of leaders like Mrs Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi and even those of Mr Morarji Desai and Mr V P Singh tended to follow an uniform pattern. They rose dramatically when these Prime Ministers first assumed power and then started slumping as disillusionment set in with their respective regimes.

Mr Narasimha Rao's graph, on the other hand, has followed a more complex course. He became Prime Minister amidst few expectations and was in fact widely considered to be a stop gap leader to be cast aside as soon as Mrs Sonia Gandhi or some powerful Congress boss managed to seize power.

His graph rose, however, when in, the first year of ofice he staved off such challenges in a quiet and dogged manner but then on a downward spiral after the demolition of the Babri Masjid and the corruption charges levelled by Mr Harshad Mehta. Now that the Prime Minister has not only managed to survive the crises of last year but emerged the leader of a reasonably stable government with a full-fledged majority in the Lok Sabha, his stock has once again mounted.

Not surprisingly, this checkered political track record which if nothing else illustrated Mr Sarasimha Rao's ability to handle the rough as well as the smooth has pushed to the corner his opponents within the Congress and outside. Former ruling party dissidents like Mr Arjun Singh and Mr Sharad Pawar have become increasingly wary of openly crossing swords with the Prime Minister and the dissidence which had once threatened to engulf the Congress has virtually faded away over recent months.

More importantly, there is a new respect within the party for Mr Narasimha Rao's political judgement which was not there before. Most Congressmen today grudgingly admit that even the Prime Minister's only palpable blunder over the Babri Masjid demolition may not have been a mistake after all but a shredw piece of procrastination.

They concede that while dismissing the Kalyan Singh Government or order fire at the militing masses at Ayodhya to protect that mosque may have been morally right and brave but could have had disastrous political consequences for the party if a enervated BJP had swept Uttar Pradesh in the subsequent election. Mr Rao's prescription of patiently riding out the saffron wave was indeed painful for those in the Congress used to Mrs Gandhi's penchant to do open battle but in hindsight now seems to have been the correct' strategy.

There is also far less panic in the ruling party about being swallowed by either the Mandir or the Mandal Wole. Congressmen realise that the wheels of the Sangh Parivar's judggernaut has got badly stuck after the denouncement of last year's Assemby polls while the Janata Dal's missionary zeal in promoting a caste revolution has not been able to prevent the steady disintegration of the party.

This is not to suggest that Mr Rao has managed to orchestrate a resurgence of the Congress. There are no indications whatsoever of the party reviving in states like Uttar Pradesh and Bihar where it has become even more marginalised than before.

Yet there are few partymen today who would support an alternative leader to Mr Rao who after all has shown the way of keeping a political fossil like the Congress alive at the centre without the life support of the country's two largest states. Many of them privately criticise the Prime Minister's reluctance to revamp the party organisation in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar but at the same time acknowledge the Herculean nature of this task. Some have even started to say that Mr Rao may be making the best of a bad job.

General public perceptions of Mr Rao are more difficult to pin down. But there is little doubt that he has emerged a seasoned leader who for all his flaws has beca able to rise out of political turmoil to give the country a relatively stable government than his immediate predecessors.

Jokes about the Prime Minister's notorious indecisive nature still do the media circles and perhaps have some justification but they no longer raise the sort of derisive laughter at the popular level. After all it is difficult to sneer at a leader for faillng to take decisions when he manages to come out on the top everytime by doing so.

In fact, there are some people who see Mr Rao as a wise stateman who realising the limitations of the party he leads and the country he rules gives time for problems to resolve themselves. They see his foreign policy successes as well as his ability to manage contradictions at home as signs of a Prime Minister who may be the best candidate for leading such a large and diverse nation as India.

Much of this present aura about Mr. Rao could quickly vanish if his political career hits another iceberg. People are quick to change their perceptions about leaders and a major economic disaster or communal turbulence may well send the Prime Minister's image plunging down again.

Yet, considering Mr Rao's proven skill of surmounting disasters without appearing to put much effort, most may hesitate before writing the obituary of a Prime Minister who has proved his detractors wrong so many times before.

Exports Grew 20 Percent in 3d Year of Economic Reform

BK0206124694 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 29 May 94 p 13

[Text] The managers of Indian economy are jubilant over the fact that exports grew by over 20 per cent in dollar terms in 1993-94, the third year of economic reform. This is being cited as the most outstanding outcome of economic liberalisation. Trade deficit declined to $1,039 million, the lowest in the last decade or so.

Economists and analysts agree that export performance in 1993-94 is impressive viewed against the dismal show in the preceeding two years. But, there is nothing much

to crow about in this because India had far better performance on the export front in the not too distant past. For instance, the performance in 1987-88 exports grew by 24 per cent in dollar terms.

During the pre-reform years, 1986-87 to 1990-91, exports registered a total growth of 103 per cent, an annual compound growth of 15.3 per cent. In comparison, total export growth for the three reform years beginning 1991-92 worked out to only 22.2 per cent, an annual compound growth of 6.9 per cent. In the first reform year, the growth was a negative 1.5 per cent. In 1992-93, exports registered a 3.8 per cent growth. From this level, it was a real surge in 1993-94 to 20.4 per cent.

Commerce Ministry arrived at this growth rate for 1993-94 by comparing the estimated export earnings of $22,173 million during the year with a provisional figure of $18,420 million in 1992-93. Government had the actual figure for 1992-93. The comparison, therefore, should have been with the actual figure and not the provisional figure for 1942-93. When compared with the actual figure of $18537 million in 1992-93, the export growth in 1993-94 dips below 20 per cent.

The real reason behind the reduced trade deficit is not the "booming" exports but the declining imports. In the first year of reform, imports were drastically pruned. This resulted in a negative growth of 19.4 per cent in 1991-92. Relaxations in import restrictions led to a 12.7 per cent growth in 1992-93. Although, the last month of 1993-94 registered a 68 per cent growth in imports, the total import growth for the year declined to 6.8 per cent. The total import bill of $ 23,212 million in 1993-94, the third year of economic reform, is less than the import bill of $24,073 million in the pre-reform year of 1990-91.

Despite the relatively impressive export performance in the pre-reform years, export earnings could not finance more than 70 per cent of the import bill during 1986-87 to 1990-91. But, a less impressive export growth in the reform years has managed to finance more than 85 per cent of the import bill. In 1991-92, 92 per cent of the import bill was financed by export earnings.

The percentage of import bill financed through export earnings has thus been increasing in recent years. This would not have been possible had imports maintained the growth momentum of the pre-reform years. In a growing economy, imports are bound to grow. This has not happened in India even after three years of economic reform.

Iran

Khamene'i Speaks on Khomeyni, Other Issues

NC0406120094 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0548 GMT 4 Jun 94

[Speech by Ayatollah 'Ali Hoseyni Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution, to a gathering at the Imam Khomeyni Mausoleum in Tehran—live]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Praise be to God, lord of the universe. God's prayers and peace be upon our Prophet Muhammad, his scion and his companions. [passage omitted]

I express my condolences on the fifth anniversary of the demise of our great imam to all the truth-seeking Muslims of the world, especially to the dear and great Iranian nation. I sincerely express my regards to those who in the course of these five years have chosen the path of the imam as the luminous path of their lives and have exulted proudly in this fact, as well as those sincere and true disciples of that noble personage, who are numerous in our nation and in other nations.

Similarly, I consider it necessary to convey my sympathies to the respected and esteemed family of the late imam for the selfless service they rendered to that noble personality in the last years of his life. This was a heavy and major responsibility, which they took on themselves and carried out in the best possible manner, especially his illustrious and dear son Haj Seyyed Ahmad.

Today, I wish to mention a few points in memory of that noble personality as the basic points for future reference, study, and perception during this grand and tumultuous gathering.

First, I will begin with the personality of the imam, even though much has been said and written and sung about it by orators, authors, and singers. [passage omitted]

The imam's most noble action was to lay the foundation of an Islamic government and system. It would be worthwhile for our respected brothers and sisters to note the importance and greatness of this noble action of the imam so that it will be correctly etched in their minds.

Our revered imam established an Islamic system on which our Government is based. Then we have Islamic political institutions and a program which is also Islamic. All these three are worth pondering and mulling over. The Islamic system that the imam created and established in this country constitutes the format for the life of this nation in an Islamic mold with an Islamic meaning and bias. This Islamic system has faith as its main essence; faith in God, in the unknown. This system has a form, an image—the Islamic shari'ah.

Such a system has not existed in the course of history and does not exist elsewhere in the world today, except at the beginning [of Islam]. This system is based on the ingredient of faith, and an image, a corpus of the laws of the Islamic shari'ah. This system is exclusive, exceptional, and not well identified by the materialists, even though it is well-comprehended by Muslims who are familiar with the Koran and Islam. Of course, no one expected that such a system could be implemented in this day and age. It could not even be imagined that with so much hostility and opposition, any one could even dare to go in this direction or have the power to carry out this task.

to crow about in this because India had far better performance on the export front in the not too distant past. For instance, the performance in 1987-88 exports grew by 24 per cent in dollar terms.

During the pre-reform years, 1986-87 to 1990-91, exports registered a total growth of 103 per cent, an annual compound growth of 15.3 per cent. In comparison, total export growth for the three reform years beginning 1991-92 worked out to only 22.2 per cent, an annual compound growth of 6.9 per cent. In the first reform year, the growth was a negative 1.5 per cent. In 1992-93, exports registered a 3.8 per cent growth. From this level, it was a real surge in 1993-94 to 20.4 per cent.

Commerce Ministry arrived at this growth rate for 1993-94 by comparing the estimated export earnings of $22,173 million during the year with a provisional figure of $18,420 million in 1992-93. Government had the actual figure for 1992-93. The comparison, therefore, should have been with the actual figure and not the provisional figure for 1942-93. When compared with the actual figure of $18537 million in 1992-93, the export growth in 1993-94 dips below 20 per cent.

The real reason behind the reduced trade deficit is not the "booming" exports but the declining imports. In the first year of reform, imports were drastically pruned. This resulted in a negative growth of 19.4 per cent in 1991-92. Relaxations in import restrictions led to a 12.7 per cent growth in 1992-93. Although, the last month of 1993-94 registered a 68 per cent growth in imports, the total import growth for the year declined to 6.8 per cent. The total import bill of $ 23,212 million in 1993-94, the third year of economic reform, is less than the import bill of $24,073 million in the pre-reform year of 1990-91.

Despite the relatively impressive export performance in the pre-reform years, export earnings could not finance more than 70 per cent of the import bill during 1986-87 to 1990-91. But, a less impressive export growth in the reform years has managed to finance more than 85 per cent of the import bill. In 1991-92, 92 per cent of the import bill was financed by export earnings.

The percentage of import bill financed through export earnings has thus been increasing in recent years. This would not have been possible had imports maintained the growth momentum of the pre-reform years. In a growing economy, imports are bound to grow. This has not happened in India even after three years of economic reform.

Iran

Khamene'i Speaks on Khomeyni, Other Issues

NC0406120094 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0548 GMT 4 Jun 94

[Speech by Ayatollah 'Ali Hoseyni Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution, to a gathering at the Imam Khomeyni Mausoleum in Tehran—live]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Praise be to God, lord of the universe. God's prayers and peace be upon our Prophet Muhammad, his scion and his companions. [passage omitted]

I express my condolences on the fifth anniversary of the demise of our great imam to all the truth-seeking Muslims of the world, especially to the dear and great Iranian nation. I sincerely express my regards to those who in the course of these five years have chosen the path of the imam as the luminous path of their lives and have exulted proudly in this fact, as well as those sincere and true disciples of that noble personage, who are numerous in our nation and in other nations.

Similarly, I consider it necessary to convey my sympathies to the respected and esteemed family of the late imam for the selfless service they rendered to that noble personality in the last years of his life. This was a heavy and major responsibility, which they took on themselves and carried out in the best possible manner, especially his illustrious and dear son Haj Seyyed Ahmad.

Today, I wish to mention a few points in memory of that noble personality as the basic points for future reference, study, and perception during this grand and tumultuous gathering.

First, I will begin with the personality of the imam, even though much has been said and written and sung about it by orators, authors, and singers. [passage omitted]

The imam's most noble action was to lay the foundation of an Islamic government and system. It would be worthwhile for our respected brothers and sisters to note the importance and greatness of this noble action of the imam so that it will be correctly etched in their minds.

Our revered imam established an Islamic system on which our Government is based. Then we have Islamic political institutions and a program which is also Islamic. All these three are worth pondering and mulling over. The Islamic system that the imam created and established in this country constitutes the format for the life of this nation in an Islamic mold with an Islamic meaning and bias. This Islamic system has faith as its main essence; faith in God, in the unknown. This system has a form, an image—the Islamic shari'ah.

Such a system has not existed in the course of history and does not exist elsewhere in the world today, except at the beginning [of Islam]. This system is based on the ingredient of faith, and an image, a corpus of the laws of the Islamic shari'ah. This system is exclusive, exceptional, and not well identified by the materialists, even though it is well-comprehended by Muslims who are familiar with the Koran and Islam. Of course, no one expected that such a system could be implemented in this day and age. It could not even be imagined that with so much hostility and opposition, any one could even dare to go in this direction or have the power to carry out this task.

However, the imam achieved the impossible through the strength of his faith, determination, and hard work, and with his reliance on the fervent and loving hearts of the millions. A prominent part of this system is the political apparatus, that is, the administration. This is the basic department in all systems, that is, the political element from which the system takes its form. It is on this basis that systems, ideologies, and objectives can be correctly identified. Our great imam forged a government unparalleled in the contemporary world, even in the course of history—except for some exceptional cases, right from the advent of Islam until today. [passage omitted]

The second characteristic of this political system is its independence, because it does not give in to extraneous pressure. Our system is not intimidated by any power and has ignored the decrees of the powerful ones of the world, who are equipped and armed with the weapons of wealth and might. This in itself is an unprecedented phenomenon in the world. However, in the system of the Islamic Republic of Iran, its nature is such that with the grace of our Creator, all the officials are endowed with these qualities. This noble figure [Khomeyni] was the most sublime example of these characteristics. The others are also blessed with these qualities. This is the kind of political apparatus of the Islamic system created by the imam.

The third point is the program. The program is also unique among the programs propounded by the reformers of the world, governments, and harbingers of new messages. Reconstruction of the world and of the hereafter goes hand in hand. The Islamic system wishes for people to flourish in this world but hopes they will not content themselves with that. The world and the hereafter are interrelated in the Islamic system and in the program of this system. Human beings should live in an honorable and comfortable manner, but comfort and welfare and all that ensures such comfort are mere preliminaries, subject to God's pleasure. They are only a precursor. This is an exceptional phenomenon on the plane of today's world and has been so throughout history, except for the governments of the prophets, their successors, and their implementors.

Everyone wishes to reform the material world for the people, but apparently they are not able to. However, the Islamic system reforms the world and the hereafter; it is capable of doing so. This is the strength which has been revealed by Islam. If the present situation of the country is viewed through the eyes of justice, this will be confirmed. Ours is a country on which a war was imposed for eight years. Its factories and roads were destroyed. An economic embargo was clamped on it. Its resources were wrested from it; and no assistance was extended by any government.

Internally, various kinds of pressure were exerted on the nation and government by political and propagandistic means. This country, this nation, this government is implementing the program to reconstruct the country, especially infrastructural projects, in a manner which has elicited the praise of observers. Those who come and perceive this process, commend the programs and their executors.

Without the pressure from the enemy, if the traitorous and trouble-making hands of the enemy had not existed, if the enemy's propagandistic and politico-economic presence had not lurked beyond our borders, the situation would have been far better and most of the economic problems that we have today would not exist. The Islamic system is concerned with the administration and prosperity of the world and the hereafter. No other program is concerned with the religion of the nation, the hereafter of human beings. The Islamic system imparts training and civilization.

Today in our country, a general movement can be observed, especially among our youths, toward learning the Koran, studying religion, abiding by Islamic tenets and injunctions. This is a distinguishing feature of the programs formulated by brains and hearts that have been guided by the Koran and Islam. These are not confined to the materialistic world. The materialists claim that they are ameliorating the world for the people, but they cannot do so. However, Islam focuses on the world and the hereafter; and by the grace of God, it is able to do so as well. Our people—as a result of Islam—have been endowed with exceptional faith, fortitude, and awareness, which is unique among the nations of the world. This range of characteristics together is the product of the work of this noble personage, the true servant of the Almighty. [crowd chants God is Great! Khomeyni is the Leader!]

I should make three points: There is a trend toward political centralization in the world and the wielder of world power is demanding that nations and governments should be reduced to captivity and follow the dictates of the central power, which today is the United States, its satellites and cohorts. Many have failed and fallen in the path of this trend. The Islamic Republic of Iran, however, has stood steadfast.

Blessed by this steadfastness, the Islamic Republic of Iran declares its categorical stance on the Palestinian issue while others do not have the courage even to listen to it at times. This categorical declaration, on which the Iranian nation and Government are unanimous, is that Palestine is a country that belongs to the Palestinian people. The Zionist government is a despotic government; the principles of this government and system are absolutely illegitimate. [crowd chants]

Many do not even have the courage to listen to those who utter such remarks. Thus, the talks that are being held on Palestine are nothing but empty words. They do not have any worth or credibility, because they are in contradiction of the truth and the accepted norms. Contrary to this, the views of the Government and people of the Islamic Republic of Iran on all international issues are independent and truthful.

As for the Muslims in the Balkans, we believe that the pressure on the Balkan Muslims is to insure that a Muslim nation and a Muslim government do not take shape in Europe. The fear is of Islam. Thus, it was on the basis of a calculated plan that the domineering powers in the world today have not supported the Muslims of Bosnia-Herzegovina. They know what they are doing. They have supported and assisted the Serbs in a calculated manner. They prevented arms and military equipment from reaching the Muslims in a calculated manner. This is the view of our Government and nation; it constitutes a condemnation of the present domineering powers with regard to the issues of Bosnia-Herzegovina and the Balkans.

With regard to the newly independent Muslims of Central Asia, the Kashmiri Muslims, the Azerbaijani Muslims, the Muslims in every part of Asia, the Middle East, and Africa, the opinion of our Government and nation is that it is the right of these Muslims to live in an Islamic manner and to implement the injunctions of the Islamic shari'ah in their daily lives. No one has the right to prevent them from doing so. Western powers that describe this as fundamentalism prevent some of these countries from even holding free elections. We believe that this interference and encroachment with regard to the affairs of Muslim nations is tyrannical and unwarranted. They have the right to have an Islamic way of life and should be given an opportunity to do so.

On the issue of Lebanon, the Iranian nation and government condemn the Zionist aggression; we deem the struggle against the Zionists imperative and accords with them as invalid. These are the independent stances of the Islamic system and the Islamic government and these are the reasons why the pyramid of international power levels accusations against the system of the Islamic Republic of Iran. This is where the accusations stem from.

The second point is that these so-called accusations probably stem from a distortion of realities. In many cases, they refer to what is actually a point of strength in the system of the Islamic Republic of Iran. For example, they accuse the Islamic Republic of Iran of fundamentalism. By this term they mean prejudice and Stone Age beliefs. This means, in fact, the refusal on the part of the Iranian people and government to surrender to the unjust desires of the international powers, so we are labeled as primeval. No. This is the rightful stance of a Muslim nation; it is not a primeval belief. If fundamentalism is the term used for respect for accepted principles, it is commendable and all should be proud of it. It is a lie to term it primeval and prejudicial, and it is a false accusation against the Iranian Government and nation.

Then they slander the Islamic Republic of Iran by saying that it does not adhere to human rights. They mean the implementation of Islamic penal laws [hodud]. We implement the Islamic ordinances. The Koran says: "Those are limits set by God: and anyone who transgresses the limits of God does verily wrong his (own) soul." Anyone who violates God's laws is subjected to the Almighty's chastisement. These are divine laws. We consider the understanding of the Koran and its text to have priority over the products of the impaired minds of the Western legislators who have laid out knowledge and inventions for themselves and give them precedence over the gnosis of Divine religions. We believe that the divine laws are to be given preference.

The path to the reform of a society is through the implementation of divine ordinances. It is possible that we may have shortcomings in this regard, but we are definitely moving in the direction of the complete implementation of the divine penal laws, of Koranic laws. This was the second point.

The last point is that our path is that of perseverance, following the attainment of the objectives of the Islamic system as this great person [Khomeyni] has delineated for us in the lessons by our great imam and as embodied in his will. This is the path of this nation. My dear brothers and sisters all over the country should heed the fact that the path to the happiness of the Iranian nation is to have recourse to Islamic and divine injunctions.

The path to the happiness of the Iranian nation is through reliance on the nation itself, its capabilities, and aptitudes. The road to the prosperity of this nation lies in severing all hopes from the domineering powers of the world and in not fearing these powers. Do not be afraid of them in the slightest and do not expect anything at all from them, even anything as tiny as the point of a needle.

My dear ones, the greatest gift given by the Islamic Revolution to this nation is that it has removed the evil of the corrupt and servile governments who for many years had imposed themselves on this country, this nation and these bounties of God. Today, with the blessings of the Almighty, the administrators of this country are the people themselves. Today, with the vigilance and endeavors of these people, the best form of popular government in accordance with the will of the people exists in this country.

Of course, the enemy denies this in his propaganda and this is how it should be. What else can we expect from the enemy! Here, the people elect an individual in accordance with their beliefs, their own criteria, Islamic criteria, for administering the country's executive matters, for legislation and guidance of the executive officials, with the ultimate freedom, reliance on faith and this is what is exceptional. If, in the well-known democratic countries in today's world, differences between factions, disputes among parties, and political tussles are the motivation behind elections, in this Islamic country, in the proud and honorable country of Iran, voting is carried out solely for the sake of faith and the recognition of divine values. This is what is worthwhile and important and this is what there is today.

In the whole world, I do not know of any place where there is a bond of affection, a rapport from the heart between the nation and the officials as is the case in Iran. The nation loves the officials and the officials love the nation with all their being and consider themselves to be at their service. This nation has such sentiments regardless of what the enemy's propaganda says. [passage omitted]

As the last sentence of my remarks, I wish to say that the Iranian nation and the officials should preserve these traits with all their power and being. [chants of God is great! other indiscernible chants]. The government and the people should safeguard the path of God, the path of Islam. The officials should not forget the people even for a second. In the great movement toward our reconstruction program, the underprivileged should be given intensive attention. The Islamic Majles should pass the laws, the government will implement them and the Judiciary will oversee the implementation of these laws with all its being. The nation will tread this path with all its strength and valor. This is the path of Islam, the Koran, of the religion of God, and the path that the great imam blazed for us. [passage omitted]

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Holds News Conference

LD0706095294 Tehran IRNA in English 0741 GMT 7 Jun 94

[Text] Tehran, June 7, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani here Tuesday expressed optimism over further improvement in the international oil market in the current calendar year. The president was speaking at a press conference this morning with the participation of over 100 local and foreign reporters and cameramen.

"It seems that situation in the oil market would further improve this year," the president replied to a question.

On the impact of the recent visit to Iran of a group of American editors on Tehran-Washington relations, the president said: "Such a visit could have no impact on the relations but could shed further light on some of the realities for the American people."

As for Iran's view over the policy the British Government has adopted in former Yugoslavia, Hashemi-Rafsanjani told the reporters that there were evidences proving that Britain did not cooperate well to repel the Serbs aggressions.

Commenting on [Liberal Democratic Party of Russia leader] Zhirinovskiy's statement that Russia should dominate its southern neighboring countries including Iran, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: "The Islamic Republic of Iran considers such statements as the viewpoints of an irresponsible individual and attaches no value to such words."

In reply to a question on situation in Iraq the president noted: "We had repeatedly condemned Iraqi aggressions in the past and believe that the Ba'th Party has treated the Iraqi people improperly. On the other hand, we believe that Saudi Arabia's measures claimed to be for the salvation of Iraqi people is not proper."

On the export of the Islamic revolution, the president said that the issue of the export of revolution has never been raised. "We have said that we would elucidate our ideology and those inhezed [as received] could accept it. We will employ all our potentials for the developmenf our country."

As for the future of Tehran-London ties, given the British bugging of the Iranian embassy, the president said that the outcome of Britain's illegal measure is mistrust in bilateral relations and we do not want to see such an atmosphere of mistrust prvail on our reations with other countries.

On fluctuations in foreign currency rates, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said measures were underway to adjust supply and demand in order to approach the single parity rate. He predicted that the actual foreign currency rate will appear in the coming months which he said would be lower than the current rates.

In reply to a question on the probable amendment of the Constitution to facilitate his re-election at the end of the presidential tenure, the president said he would rather prefer no change in the Constitution. "If I perform my duties properly within these eight years, I think there will be no need for re-electing me," he added.

On foreign investment in Iran President Hashemi-Rafsanjani said that there was no restriction on the investment of foreign countries within the framework of the Islamic Republic Constitution.

As for foreign minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati's participation in the Cairo Non-aligned Movement ministerial session, the president said that the visit did not imply a change in Iran's Middle East policy and Velayati's presence in Egypt was only for attending the meeting.

On Iran's cooperation with Central Asian republics despite U.S. hindrances, he said the areas of cooperation were so natural and vast that no one could stop it. However, he added, dimensions of cooperation might shrink due to foreign pressures, but, it should be noted that Iran and Central Asian region were complementary to each other and none could deny it. He also noted that Iran was determined to boost its cooperation with Asian countries. Cooperation within the framework of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) as well as bilateral cooperation with India and Malaysia were expanding, he said.

The president added that tripartite cooperation among Iran, Pakistan and India could lead to the formation of a great economic grouping in the region and in order to achieve this objective, the Indo-Pak differences should be settled.

On assassination of Iranian dissidents in some European countries, Hashemi-Rafsanjani noted that the alleged

involvement of Iranian officials in the killing of Iranian dissidents abroad is an unfounded allegation, adding that "we think that the killings are the result of inter-group rivalries". He underlined that Iran's policy is not to eliminate the dissidents but to encourage them to embrace Islam and return to their own country.

Commenting on the prospect of Iran-Egypt relations, the president said: "We believe that by signing the Camp David Accord, Egypt created a gulf among the anti-Zionist Muslim and Arab countries. Nevertheless we consider Egypt as a great Islamic country and welcome conditions enabling us to resume relations with that country."

In response to a question on Tehran-London relations, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said that there was no need to cut off relations, the two countries once witnessed the break-off of the relations and found out that it could not change anything. The relations, even though at a low level, should exist, we only react to any inappropriate action on their part, he added.

On Iran-U.S. trade relations, the president said that Iran has never broken off its trade relations with the U.S. "As for diplomatic relations with the U.S., we believe that the U.S. lacks goodwill and it has not taken a proper position during the post revolution era. The Americans are for dialogue but we think it will not be in our interest to start negotiations," he said. "If U.S. officials have good intentions, they should first release Iran's frozen assets," the president said.

The two countries have a broad trade cooperation, he reiterated, adding "a great deal of our military equipment is made in the U.S. and therefore we cannot throw away such a great national asset."

"We showed our goodwill by helping secure the release of American hostages in Lebanon but the Washington government did not keep its promise of releasing our frozen assets. This caused us to lose our trust in them," Hashemi-Rafsanjani said.

In reply to a question as to reasons for inviting American editors to Iran, the president said that not all writers should be considered agents of the global arrogance. There are freedom-loving people working in foreign mass media who write the truth, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said. He added that considering anti-Iranian propaganda in the U.S., the invitation of American journalists was a positive measure.

On claims of human rights abuses in Iran raised by the global arrogance, the president said that human rights were routinely violated in the West but "they (Western countries) are making hue and cry over the issue because their propaganda machine is stronger than ours."

"I openly declare that human rights are observed in the Islamic Republic better than in any other parts of the world and we are ready to debate with anybody who claims otherwise," he said.

Commenting on planned negotiations in tehran between belligerent parties in Tajikistan, Hashemi-Rafsanjani noted that the war was not in the interest of either Tajik government or people. He added that Iran would try to restore peace to that country in cooperation with the parties involved. On Iran's mediation efforts in Azerbaijan-Armenia dispute, he stressed that "although the mediation efforts have not been successful yet, we have not been disappointed."

The continuation of conflict will not benefit either Armenia, Azerbaijan or Karabakh, the president said, adding that Iran intended to launch new efforts to establish peace in the region.

In response to a question as to whether or not an Israeli pilot was held in Iran, he said for sure no Israeli pilot was in Iran. By raising such allegations, the Zionist regime is trying to cover up the kidnapping of four Iranians in Lebanon, the president said. The Westerners should not view the issue from their own self-interested perspective but should also be sensitive to the abduction of the four Iranians.

On the claim of the United Arab Emirates on the three Iranian islands in the Persian Gulf, the president warned "the United Arab Emirates will gain nothing from such claims and they have to cross a sea of blood in order to reach these islands." However, Hashemi-Rafsanjani voiced Iran's readiness to negotiate with UAE officials on the issue.

On Iran's stance on the current crisis in Yemen, the president said Iran was against the partition of Yemen, believing that Yemen should remain united.

He stressed that Iran was not after nuclear weapons, saying that this has been confirmed by inspectors of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) who regularly visited Iran. Hashemi-Rafsanjani added that "Iran is not for proliferation of nuclear arms but is for the nuclear disarmament of all countries. Every and each country should try to eliminate atomic weapons."

On the Middle East peace talks, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said "what is going on now is not peace because during the negotiations the rights of the Palestinian nation are denied." He reiterated that Iran was not going to interfere in the ongoing negotiations between Arabs and the Zionist regime.

Majles Speaker's Comments on U.S. Imports Discussed

NC0306201294 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 26 May 94 p 2

[Commentary by Mas'ud Khaleqi: "And Yet, There Is Room for Concern"—punctuation as published]

[Text] On Tuesday 24 May, the esteemed Majles speaker, who attended a news conference with foreign

and domestic correspondents, said in answer to a question put to him by a correspondent of Japan's NHK Television on what he thinks of the importation of American goods into the country and the possibility that these goods may affect the culture of Islamic Iran: "We are not concerned about the importation of some American goods into our country and the American culture that they can bring in. Our Islamic and national culture is too strong to be negatively affected by such minor issues...."

We too fully agree with the remarks by the esteemed Majles speaker, that our country has a rich and strong Islamic and national culture. But contrary to his view, we are extremely concerned over the importation of some American goods and the bad effects that this may have, and we believe that this issue should be studied from several aspects. In our opinion, we should pose this question from another angle and ask the esteemed Majles speaker: What vital need does our country have for American soft drinks and cigarettes? And what dangers can the banning of such imports have on our Islamic homeland? We should also recall that during last year's session of the G-7, the Americans placed the topic of banning the export of technology to Iran on their agenda and insisted—together with the British Government—that this decision be approved. And today, if in some part of the industrial world there is a country or a company that is transferring technology to Islamic Iran, it becomes the target of strong criticisms by the American bully.... And finally, the esteemed Majles speaker, who is a revolutionary figure with a bright record, definitely knows that the sale of American technology and of the diplomacy of exploiting this technology go hand in hand, as do their arms sales and arms policy. This point is so clear that it does not need any further explanation.

Therefore, if "some American goods" means items like Coca Cola, Pepsi Cola, cigarettes, chocolate, chips, and so on—that is, items for which the country has no need—the importation and sale of these items is an insult to the Muslim nation and to those who have shed their blood for this nation. And if American goods means technological products, then the Americans sell such products only if this sale is coupled with the acceptance—by the buyer—of the policy that they want to be accepted. But this is only one side of the coin. The other side of the coin should be sought in the views of our late imam, may his soul be sanctified, when he boycotted American imports. We believe that opening up the market of Islamic Iran to American goods will fill the pockets of the bloodthirsty and plundering capitalists of that country with astronomical profits, and will greatly harm our economy, while also helping the Americans do what they usually do in other countries—that is, couple the export of their products with the export of their culture and influence. But the sagacious view of our late imam, may his soul be sanctified, on the significance of boycotting American products is much more profound than this. A mere part of what he meant can be seen in his remarks that: The boycotting of American products will keep alive the deep hostility and spite as well as the memory of the crimes perpetrated by the Americans against our Muslim and oppressed nation in the minds of future generations and will prevent them from forgetting this hatred.

On the other hand, Islamic Iran has been recognized as the standard-bearer of pure Mohammedan Islam among the Muslim nations, and all facts show that the other Muslims consider Islamic Iran's actions to be an acceptable pattern that they too can follow. The boycotting of American products is tantamount to a line that is drawn between Islam and its major enemy—America. The answer to the question of why Islamic Iran has boycotted American goods shows the true identity of the great satan; and this is what our generation needs today.

Finally, we are well aware of the fact that the esteemed Majles speaker's remarks did not mean that he was issuing a permit for the import and sale of American goods, but that they referred to the wealth of our Islamic and national culture and an effort to remove any misgivings that the import of some American goods means that we will ignore the principle of not having relations with America. In another part of his news conference he also explicitly referred to this issue. However, the concern does exist that there will be some who will exploit part of his remarks.

Commentary: U.S., Saudi Arabia Foment Regional Tension

NC0506130394 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 23 May 94 p 16

[From the Foreign Policy Desk: "The United States, Saudi Arabia, and the Policy of Fomenting Tension in the Region"]

[Text] Every once in a while, U.S. officials address issues concerning the important Persian Gulf region and express the stances of their government on the political and security aspects of the issues. Even though these utterances may be projected as logical and popular, a deeper and precise examination will assist us to perceiving the ill-intentioned U.S. objectives.

In this regard, the presidential adviser for national security affairs, Anthony Lake, spoke recently on the Persian Gulf region and explained his country's stance. In his remarks, in order to capitalize further on the resources of the Arabs of the region, he once more waxed eloquent on the defeated policy of dual containment of Iraq and Iran and stressed the dangers from both these countries to the regional countries.

Even though one should admit that Washington's plan for dual containment of Iran and Iraq stems from a lack of understanding of the realities and how the needs of the region relate to U.S. foreign policy, by making such claims the United States is paving the way for a greater presence in the region.

In his remarks, Anthony Lake spoke in general terms of "extremism." Dividing it into religious and national extremism, he claimed that both were dangerous for the United States and the region. Extremism is one of those expressions frequently used by Americans, but they have never clearly defined what they actually mean by this term.

Even though extremism is even denounced in the religion of Islam, the U.S. hierarchy and, naturally, the regional Gulf officials have a different concept of extremism as compared with the usual concept.

From Washington's point of view, the term "extremism" applies to any individual or government not willing to officially recognize the illegitimate U.S. interests in various countries around the world. The Americans freely label anyone who does not succumb to their domination as an extremist, even though they have not yet presented any specific definition of this term.

For example, they refer to the Lebanese Hizballah as a conspicuous example of extremism. Have the Hizballah carried out any action other than armed resistance—which is the last resort of resistance—in the face of usurpation? Unfortunately, in today's world all kinds of freedom-seekers are suppressed by false accusations and even by force at sword point; and the subsequent struggle is labeled extremism.

Lake also rejected the notion of a war between the West and Islam after the collapse of the Eastern bloc and communism. While his own country is engaged in a multifaceted war against Islam in various parts of the world, Lake claims that the United States is strongly opposed to the view that the United States should go to war against Islam in the aftermath of the failure of communism.

Lake claimed that his country has no intentions of dominating the Middle East. Addressing these countries, he said that progress in the peace process will give the Middle Eastern countries an opportunity to embark on improving their economy and the lives of their people instead of squandering their resources purchasing weapons.

The realities in the region however belie his allegations. The establishment of military, air, and naval bases in Bahrain, Qatar, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and Oman are outstanding examples of this fact. The White House adviser on national security affairs made these claims at a time when the region has been stockpiling destructive and complex American weapons, whose use is unclear even to the Arab shaykhs.

In the opinion of experts, the United States—by supporting the Zionist regime's existence and by generating tension between that regime and the Arab governments—intends to open up a new front of hostility and tension among the regional Muslim nations.

The prolonged visit by the U.S. assistant secretary of state to the Persian Gulf region, his provocative remarks regarding the so-called dangers from Iran, his resurrecting of the claims of the Untied Arab Emirates, all were part of the U.S. policy of generating tension in the region.

Some countries' endorsement of such claims against Iran is part of the overt U.S. policy of fomenting tension in the region. Unfortunately, some of these countries have fallen into the traps laid by the colonialists, and they are following precisely the same lines that the Americans have formulated to raise tension.

In this regard, in his speech yesterday, Saudi Arabian King Fahd called on Iran to abide by international norms and alluded to the UAE's territorial claims against Iran, calling for the handing over of the Iranian islands in the Persian Gulf to the UAE.

These remarks can only result in raising tension in the region, and will result in greater backwardness and misfortune for the region, with more domination and profit making by the United States. The Saudi king has thus taken a new step toward disrupting the sensitive situation in the Persian Gulf region.

Commentary Decries Recognition of Southern Yemen

LD0606133294 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0950 GMT 6 Jun 94

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The foreign ministers of the Arab member countries of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] finally ended their two days of talks in Saudi Arabia with a statement that gave a seal of approval and legality to dismemberment of the Republic of Yemen through implicit recognition of the Democratic Republic of Yemen.

This is the first foreign reaction in support of Yemen's dismemberment, because even though the southern leaders of Yemen announced their independence at the start of the civil war, no foreign country has yet recognized Yemen's dismemberment or questioned its unity.

The stand taken by the GCC foreign ministers in the implicit recognition of Yemen's dismemberment is dangerous, the continuation of which could have disastrous consequences for Yemen as well for as the Arab and Islamic worlds. Among the six Arab countries on the southern shores of the Persian Gulf, only Qatar voted against this decision, and took a unity-seeking stand on the developments in Yemen.

In their two days of talks the GCC foreign ministers not only failed to take a step toward solving the crisis of civil war in Yemen but worked toward continuing it. Political experts believe that the stand does not reflect the policies

of the GCC countries than but rather the dangerous game that [Saudi] Arabia is pursuing under cover of the GCC.

Over and above the negative stand taken on the domestic crisis in Yemen, the rulers of Riyadh seek to push Yemen into an endless crisis and thus forever forget the issue of the three oil-rich provinces that have been occupied by [Saudi] Arabia for decades.

The three provinces were occupied by Saudi Arabia in the 1930's and were supposed to be returned to Yemen after 30 years, in the 1960's. But due to the civil war at that time in Yemen, Saudi Arabia managed to delay the deadline for another 30 years.

Recently, with Yemen's insistence on the return of the three provinces, Riyadh again sought to intensify civil war and to delay the deadline for the return of Yemen's occupied territories. Political experts therefore believe that the result of the GCC foreign ministers meeting in Saudi Arabia was merely a political pretext for Saudi Arabian diplomacy. Riyadh's policy of causing civil war in Yemen follows the failure of repeated attempts by Saudi Arabian leaders to weaken united Yemen through transferring political, economic, and security crises into that country.

Parallel to Riyadh's efforts to perpetuate Yemen's domestic crisis by recognizing the Aden government in the south, Saudi Arabia also seeks to create and magnify a pseudo-crisis in the region, hoping thus to divert public opinion in the region's nations from their own policies of discord.

The plan, or to be more precise, the creation of a so-called issue of the three islands and efforts to create differences between Iran and the United Arab Emirates is also within this context. But this weapon is now increasingly losing its effectiveness with the gradual publication of legal and historic documents by official international sources regarding the sovereignty of the Islamic Republic of Iran over the islands.

Spokesman on Ownership of Islands, Talks With UAE

LD0606183194 Tehran IRNA in English 1700 GMT 6 Jun 94

[Text] Tehran, June 4, IRNA—The Foreign Ministry here today reiterated that the three Lesser and Greater Tunbs as well as Abu Musa Islands belonged to Iran according to the historical documents, and welcomed talks with United Arab Emirates (UAE) without any precondition.

Mahmud Mohammadi, a Foreign Ministry's spokesman, referred to the final communique of the (Persian) Gulf Cooperation Council (PGCC) Sunday night [5 June], and said the communique did not reportedly pass unanimously, and that all six PGCC ministers were not present at the time of approval.

However, he stressed that according to the historical documents the islands have always belonged to Iran, and said Iran has always welcomed mutual talks with UAE without any precondition. "The invitation for Shaykh Hamdan is still valid," he added.

Prominent university scholars in a recent seminar in Paris reviewed the historial documents on Iran's ownership of the islands.

On the Saudi protest to the Iranian media reports concerning Saudi Arabia, which had been included in the PGCC final communique, Mohammadi said Iranian media "are totally free".

"The media in Iran criticize also formal policies of the country most of the time, and our neighbours should understand this reality," he said adding "on the other hand it is natural that the media would react when they see the negligence of an agreement."

Mohammadi also refuted the claims of Iran's support and military aid to one of the warring sides in Yemen, and said Iran had expressed its regret over the clashes and opposed any military operations in Yemen. The Islamic Republic adopted an impartial position and announced its readiness for mediation in Yemen, he said.

More on the issue the spokesman said Iran is deeply interested in the integrity of the Islamic countries, whose disintegration, he said, are provoked by the foreigners. "We support the settlement of disputes in a peaceful way."

"We are deeply sorry for the killing of each and every Muslim whether in the north or in the south, and we invite the two sides to end the clashes and begin talks with the aim of preservation of Yemen's unity," he said.

Mohammadi also invited other countries to show self-restrain and avoid flaming the tension.

Gunmen Kidnap Chinese National, Two Citizens

LD0506132194 Tehran IRNA in English 1133 GMT 5 Jun 94

[Text] Rudan (Hormozgan), June 5, (IRNA)—Unidentified gunmen kidnapped a Chinese national and two Iranians in this southern province on Friday.

Fu Weixian, who worked for a mineral factory, was abducted by armed men along with his driver and another Iranian accompanying him.

The car in which the Chinese national and his Iranian companions were travelling was found on Saturday around Heights city.

Efforts are underway to track down the kidnappers and free the victims.

Thai Envoy Handed Protest on Arrest of Nationals

NC0706095794 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 7 Jun 94

[Text] Yesterday afternoon the Thai ambassador in Tehran was summoned to the Foreign ministry and handed a note of protest by the deputy foreign minister and head of the Department for Southern and Eastern Affairs. The Central News Unit reports this note protested the arrest of several Iranians on the trumped-up charges of their attempting to blow up the Zionist regime's embassy in Bangkok and also to related interviews by Thai officials.

In this note of protest, the Islamic Republic of Iran has demanded an immediate response from the Thai Government and has asked for documented proof of the charges brought against the Iranian nationals. It has also asked the Thai Government to arrange a meeting between officials of the Islamic Republic's consulate in Bangkok and the accused.

Rebel Radio Views Political Prisoners

NC0306211594 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian 1730 GMT 2 Jun 94

[Commentary from the 209th issue of KORDESTAN magazine; date not given: "Let Us Not Forget the Political Prisoners"]

[Text] The inhuman crimes and acts that the Islamic Republic has been perpetrating against the people of our country, and especially against its political opponents during its more than 15 years of rule, have made the world realize its nature as a state completely against freedom. This is why not a year passes without the Islamic Republic being listed among the world's bloodthirsty and arbitrary regimes and without its being criticized on a world level.

Some of the most heart-rending crimes by this regime are perpetrated against combatants who disagree with the clergymen and are opponents of the regime. During the 15 years of the regime's existence, hundreds of Iranian citizens have been thrown into the torture chambers of the Islamic Republic because of their political beliefs and have received long prison terms, while thousands have received the death penalty.

Here we do not intend to refer to all these crimes and to the inhuman acts that have become ordinary in the dungeons of the Islamic Republic. These crimes have been revealed on many occasions. Revelations have been made of heart-rending acts such as the mass murder of political prisoners, extortion, depriving them of the right to a lawyer, summary trials, rape of girls before their execution, dozens of kinds of psychological and physical tortures, and leaving the world uninformed of the situation of the political prisoners and so on by presenting no documentary proof. Actually very few are unaware that all types of crimes have been perpetrated in clerical Iran against political prisoners. Thus, in this article we intend to only list the duties that the families and relatives of the political prisoners, our country's masses, opposition parties and organizations, and world humanitarian groups and organizations have toward these political prisoners.

If we accept the fact that the struggle against dictatorship and strangulation is a holy mission—and we do—and if we believe in the fact that the Islamic Republic is the full-fledged enemy of human rights and freedoms and the strangler of these rights and freedoms—and we do—both we, those who live in Iran and face the bullying and arbitrariness of the clerical regime, and the humanitarian circles and organizations and, in general, progressive humanity, the human values and criteria of which the Islamic Republic is ridiculing, we will have certain duties to perform as far as the political prisoners in Iran are concerned.

We would first like to list the duties of the families and relatives of the political prisoners. We know that for some time now the clerical regime has wanted to pretend that there is no such thing as a political prisoner in Iran and that the combatants who are under arrest have been cast into prison on charges of ordinary crimes. For this reason, the relatives and families of the political prisoners should use every possible means to contact opposition organizations and to give them any information that they have on their dear imprisoned ones such as their name, age, educational background, profession, political activities and stands, the date and place of their arrest, and whatever they know about their trial. They should try to hand over the necessary information and documents on their imprisoned relative to representatives of the Human Rights Commission and Amnesty International when they visit Iran. If possible, they should make their voices heard by the foreign mass media and by those humanitarian organizations and groups that are ready to reveal the crimes perpetrated by the Iranian rulers.

Many of these duties do not concern only the families and relatives of the political prisoners. Each and every respectable and sensitive person should consider himself a next-of-kin of the political prisoners and to consider it his duty to inform the people and political forces of Iran, as well as the world, of the situation the imprisoned freedom-lovers are in. The duty that our country's masses have in relation with this is even heavier. While revealing these crimes and giving the necessary information to the competent circles, they should also be active in another field. They should become a backbone and a mouthpiece for those families who are facing numerous psychological and material problems because their daughter, son, or the head of the family has been arrested. The more the masses sympathize with the families of the political prisoners and strive to remove their problems, the more they will be resisting the executioners and the prouder they will defend their

demands which are the demands of the majority of the people in our country as well.

A political prisoner should feel that if he has welcomed torture and death for the sake of fulfilling the demands and the freedoms of the people of the country, the people too are appreciative, and they are not indifferent toward their families and their sacrifices. More important yet, our compatriots should organize protest movements related to the political prisoners and demand that the regime end their behind-the-scene trials, publish the number of political prisoners and a report on the true situation of the prisoners, allow political prisoners to meet with their families and relatives on a regular basis, provide suitable health and food facilities, and allow them access to radios and newspapers, and the books that they wish to read. All the staged acts that the Islamic Republic of Iran is carrying out in connection with the political prisoners should be neutralized, and especially when representatives of organizations defending human rights come to Iran to assess the situation of human rights, our compatriots should try to organize antiregime protests and to inform these representatives of the dire situation that the political prisoners in Iran are facing.

Iran's political forces that are engaged in a struggle against the regime should inform world public opinion of all the documents and information that they acquire through their members and supporters and through the people of our country in connection with the political prisoners. Many of these forces have some sort of propaganda means such as radio stations, newspapers, and so on. Therefore, while publishing such information and documentation, they should pay more attention to directing and encouraging the masses of our country and to further informing them of the duties that they have toward the political prisoners.

During the past few years, all the antiregime forces have strived to inform the world abroad of the situation of the political prisoners in Iran. Undoubtedly, if there is more cooperation and coordination among the opposition organizations and personalities and if a common plan is laid out, their efforts and the activities in this field will be more widely reflected and there will be more solidarity than is seen on the global level today.

Until now, Amnesty International, the Middle East Watch, the Human Rights Commission, the UN General Assembly, and many other world pro-human rights groups and organizations have revealed the unprecedented crimes that the Islamic Republic of Iran has perpetrated and is perpetrating against the political prisoners. But the repeated condemnation of the Islamic Republic by these organizations and groups has not put an end to the massacre of political prisoners in Iran or, at least, helped to bring about a major development in relation to them. One of the reasons for this is that the governments of the world have not attached great importance to the views and stands of pro-human rights organizations on the Islamic Republic and, ignoring the antipopular nature of this regime, they have continued their political-economic relations and cooperation with the Islamic Republic.

It is by taking these facts into consideration that pro-human rights organizations and all sources, forces, and personalities who consider their struggle against the massacre of freedom-seekers in Iran to be their humanitarian duty should mobilize world public opinion and place governments under pressure to stop transactions and cooperation with the Islamic Republic, and to isolate this regime in the world on charges of fighting against freedom and crushing freedom-lovers.

We hope that everyone will help to serve the political prisoners of Iran.

Larijani Writes on Events in Middle East

NC0406191594 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 19 May 94 p 16

["Weekly Political Newsletter" by Dr. Mohammad Javad Larijani, Tehran Majles deputy and member of the Supreme National Security Council: "Occupied Palestine and the Middle East Situation"]

[Text] 1. It is possible that the situation in occupied Palestine may appear rather erratic: On the one hand, the people in Gaza and Jericho celebrated the departure of the Zionist soldiers and on the other hand one of the most intense armed clashes took place between the Palestinian combatants and the Israelis in al-Khalil [Hebron].

Is there a dichotomy among the Palestinians? Does this mean that there is one group that is in favor of jihad against the Zionist regime and another that is seeking a normal life—even though vicarious—on the sidelines of this regime? We should view the issue in a more comprehensive manner. What will the changes in the Palestinian movement be, the political role of the Middle East and even of the regions beyond it in light of current political moves in the region in which the United States, Israel and the West have used all their weight?

2. The motives behind the moves of the United States and Israel with regard to the Palestinian movement and the intifadah are quite clear. They obviously want them to be snuffed out as soon as possible. Military pressure has not yielded any results and efforts to sow political discord have also not been able to drive a wedge in the ranks. The only hope that is left for them is that the intifadah should be contained within narrow geographical confines and should be pitted against 'Arafat's forces. 'Arafat should be given serious support (military, political, financial, and propagandistic) and what the Zionist regime was unable to achieve, should be done by 'Arafat. What should the Islamic movement do in such circumstances?

In my opinion, the current dual policy is the best one! In Gaza and Jericho, the Islamic movement should not

become embroiled with pro-'Arafat forces who until yesterday were among the ranks of the intifadah. They should be strongly inducted into the management! Outside the confines of the autonomous region, the intifadah should continue with all its strength. There is no doubt that 'Arafat and Israel are apprehensive of any kind of victory of the Islamic forces in all kinds of elections and their effective participation in the management. Some reports indicate that Israel prefers that 'Arafat personally be in charge of administrative affairs for some time, and that there be no elections.

In either case, the path will be opened for the victory of the Muslims, that is, if there are elections and they win or if there is a dictatorship and 'Arafat's supporters stand behind him. 'Arafat will be forced to ask the Israelis for assistance once again for his own perpetuation and the extent of the intifadah will continue in its own sphere of action!

3. Worry with regard to the assessments that I have mentioned above have motivated the United States and Israel to pay attention to the role of the Islamic Republic of Iran as regards the course of the intifadah and they are exceedingly afraid of the spiritual and political effect of our stances. The strong stance of the U.S. secretary of state during his address to a gathering of Jews in New York is a clear indication of this fear.

Thus, the fabrication of a new preoccupation with regard to Iran has been placed on the agenda. Perhaps the most appropriate pretext and in fact, one on which they would have greater control would be some Arab countries in the Persian Gulf. An important point that merits the attention of the officials of Islamic Iran and the regional governments is: Our friends in the littoral states of the southern Persian Gulf should know that the United States does not have the ability to bring about a change of regime in Baghdad! The United States has extracted an exorbitant price for this promise so far. Therefore, it is seeking to clear its ledger, in practice, by its propaganda of a stronger threat, such as Iran. Right from the outset, it was clear that the United States did not have the ability to fulfill its promise, as Iraq is not a Panama or a Grenada! Even if it were, it would not have been to the benefit of the region that the door be opened to such intervention by the United States. This means that the sole path that remains for maintaining stability and peace in the Persian Gulf region is collective cooperation among the regional countries and that is all!

4. The Washington echelons have recently broken a world record in tactlessness: Their policy from the PRC, Japan, all the way to the Middle East and Iran is characterized by an egocentricity and stupidity which is the best way to describe their stances and behavior.

In such circumstances, our foreign policy should be based entirely on the main axes of our national interests with extreme poise and we should refrain from getting involved in controversial and marginal issues, regardless of whether these controversial issues pertain to any links with the IRA or are provocations in the form of awarding literary prizes to Salman Rushdie.

We have a momentous task ahead of us: To support the great Islamic renaissance [preceding word in French] and to prove that in today's world, we can transform our Islamic country into a modern and advanced country. Every step that we take forward toward the attainment of this objective is the biggest slap in the face of the enemies of dear Iran, proud Islam, and the great movement that our nation has brought about in the Islamic world.

Dialogue To Continue With EU; Closer Ties Sought

LD0406120594 Tehran IRNA in English 1103 GMT 4 Jun 94

[Text] Athens, June 4, IRNA—The 12-member European Union (EU) and the Islamic Republic of Iran have decided to continue their dialogue to promote and widen relations following talks between EU and Iranian officials in Athens Friday.

"We have decided to continue our discussion and exchange of views on various issues of mutual interest," 'Ali Ahani, director general for West European affairs at Iran's foreign ministry, told IRNA in an interview Saturday.

It was the third round of meeting between Iran and the EU. The first two rounds were held in Copenhagen and Brussels.

The Iranain delegation, led by deputy foreign minister for Euro-American affairs Mahmoud Va'ezi and the EU troika, headed by Greek Foreign Under Secretary George Papandreou, held marathon 3-hour talks yesterday.

The EU troika consists of the former, the current and the forthcoming holder of the rotating EU presidency, namely Belgium, Greece and Germany.

"We have very good relations with all the EU countries, in economic, political and cultural fields. But we should try to have the same level of cooperation with the EU in its totality," said Ahani.

Asked to comment on the recent expulsion of an Iranain diplomat from London and a British diplomat from Tehran, Ahani said he hoped the matter has now closed and there would be no further expulsions.

"I hope it will be stopped. We don't want to have tension in relations with any EU member," he said. The tensions were created by the British side, Ahani added.

The Iranian delegation left Athens Saturday after a 2-day visit during which they met Greek government officials and discussed bilateral political, economic and cultural ties.

Va'ezi was received by Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreau, the current euprht welcomed the expansion of Athens-Tehran ties and also Iran's relations with the EU.

Ahani said Greek Foreign Minister Karolos Papoulias will be visiting Tehran next week to continue discussions on bilateral relations and on regional and international issues.

Pointing that Greece currently holds the EU Presidency, Ahani said the Greek Minister's visit will offer an important opportunity to discuss the situation in the Persian Gulf region, the Balkans And europe.

Ahani described Greek-Iranian relations as "excellent."

*** Nationals Seeking Employment Expelled From Cyprus**

94LA0170B Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian 4 May 94 p 2

[Text] Larnaca, 10 Ordibehesht [30 April] IRNA—Last Wednesday the Cyprus Government expelled 30 Iranians, several of whom had just arrived at Larnaca Airport the same day.

One of the expelled Iranians, Reza Payami, said: The reason for expelling this group still has not been announced by the Cyprus police.

He said their expulsion was likely related to a theft that took place two weeks ago at a household appliances store.

Another of the individuals expelled said without giving his name: I was arrested by the Larnaca police as soon as I reached the airport.

He also claimed that the airport police tried in various ways to take the $1,800 he had away from him.

He said that he was forced to sell some of his household furnishings to make his trip to Cyprus possible.

A number of these expelled Iranians, citing deception or extortion of Iranians seeking work in Cyprus, asked Iran's embassies to cooperate with Iranians seeking work in various countries.

* Relations With South Africa To Resume

94LA0170A Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian 4 May 94 p 2

[Text] Tehran, 10 Ordibehesht [30 April] KEYHAN-E HAVA'I News Service—Following the dissolution of the apartheid regime and the participation of all races in the national elections in South Africa, Iran's political and economic relations with this country, which were cut off in 1980 after the triumph of the Islamic revolution of Iran, were resumed.

The Iranian Government, which sent four delegates to supervise the national elections in South Africa, is waiting for the announcement of the results of the South African elections, in order on that basis to organize relations with the next government in Pretoria.

Iran's political relations began with South Africa in 1349 [21 March 1970-20 March 1971]. In that year the governments at that time in Iran and South Africa opened consulates in Johannesburg and Tehran. Following that, economic relations between the two countries also developed to the extent that 90 percent of the Pretoria regime's oil needs were met by Iran. Several years later, with the participation of the Iran National Oil Company, construction began on the [?Natruf] refinery in South Africa. In addition to its participation in the construction of this refinery, at the outset Iran also owned 17.5 percent of its shares. The remainder of the refinery's shares were owned by the French [?Gugal] company, with 30 percent, and the South African SASOL [South African Coal, Oil and Gas Corporation] company, with 52.5 percent.

In the beginning this refinery's capacity was 50,000 barrels per day, and after a time it increased to 78,000 barrels. Thus Iran's shares in the Natruf refinery in 1974 increased from 17.5 percent to 33.3 percent of the entire refinery.

Based on a separate contract signed between the Iran National Oil Company and South African officials, the Iranian side was required to supply 70 percent of the oil needed by the Natruf. Based on this contract, Iran was required to deliver 25 million tons of crude oil to South Africa over a 15-year period. By the time of the triumph of the Islamic revolution, 12 million tons of crude oil had been delivered to this country.

In an interview with KEYHAN-E HAVA'I, an expert on foreign affairs discussed the fall of the apartheid regime in South Africa. He said: Since the Natruf Oil Refinery was designed based on the characteristics of Iran's oil and Iran cut off its oil exports to South Africa after the triumph of the Islamic revolution, the Natruf Refinery suffered losses that were such that several years later the Government of Iran sold its shares to the South African SASOL company to recover its losses and prevent further losses. Nevertheless, if the South African elections produce a democratic government, the Iranian Government can resume its relations with this country.

These experts added: In addition, the former Iranian regime's oil cooperation with the apartheid government and South Africa made Iran the Pretoria regime's second-largest trading partner after Israel.

The governments of the time in Iran and South Africa ccoperated on mining matters and in the extraction of uranium. Likewise, companies affiliated with the private sector in the two countries were active importing and exporting and selling Iran's dried fruits and South Africa's industrial materials.

Daily Says Economic Situation 'Deteriorating'

NC0206123694 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL (Weekly Edition) in English 26 May 94 p 2

[Editorial: "Here Comes Tagging"]

[Text] The costly war with Iraq is primarily responsible for our chronic economic difficulties. No right-thinking Iranian had expected life to be comfortable after the guns fell silent in 1988. The common masses, who are the supporters of the Islamic Revolution and sacrificed their near and dear ones in the 8-year-old war, knew that the post-war era would be problematic.

As is the case in such circumstances, the poor and middle class are always called on to make concessions. They have been ready to do their share every time and in many instances, much more than would be normally expected of them.

Speaking strictly of the economic health of the majority of our people, almost six years after Iraq's military aggressions ended we can at best say the situation has been deteriorating. To say the least the government of President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani seems to have entirely put the fate of the economy in the hands of 'market forces'. Our economic planners have generally been unsuccessful and this bitter reality is clearly visible in the market itself.

Prices of goods and services have jumped to between 50 to 250 percent in the past few months. Chaos rules supreme in the bazaars to the extent that the business community refuses to acknowledge even the basic principles of trade not to mention the frontiers of human relations, ethics and respect for the rule of law. One lady shopper says of the retailers and shop-owners "they have full freedom to raise prices". In an area of a few hundred meters, prices differ as much as 20 to 30 percent 'depending on the conscience and justice' of the seller.

For years, we have heard our statesmen talk about the need to build a society on the foundation of social justice and economic morals. There is no death of seminars, conferences and gatherings where economic and social planners stick to the rhetoric of directing and sustaining our Muslim society, free from discrimination and injustice. But, whether we like it or not, the fundamental truth is that rhetoric has far outstripped reality. People with fixed incomes are doomed as their purchasing power declines every day and along with it their morale and tolerance.

This week the minister of commerce announced that it is compulsory to put price tags on commodities. It's a too little and too late a move. As far as our information goes, this measures also does not carry enough weight and was reportedly not coordinated with other related institutions and ministries. The tagging is no relief at all. Experience teaches us that this move is yet another gimmick to 'stabilize the market', will have the same fate as hundreds of its predecessors.

Looking at the way ministries have functioned in the recent past, observers feel the government is equally to be blamed for the frightening confusion, as the middlemen and opportunists. They believe the government has exacerbated the already high inflation rate and slow economic growth—all of which have worsened the country's socio-economic problems and eroded the financial stability of the middle class.

Then there is the dollar disease. Everything from pin to plane is calculated on the '$ price'. Education, housing and medical services are gradually getting out of reach for the ordinary working class, as our policymakers are increasingly forgetting that these three basics are rights and not privileges.

We are always given sermons about falling revenues due to the drop in oil prices. Of course the oil argument cannot be regarded as total nonsense. No doubt that too is a factor, but let's not forget that all developing countries do not survive on oil. They select and elect the right people for key positions. Honesty, efficiency and merit are the criteria of appointments in majority of the states if not all. Thank God, most of our officials are certainly honest and God-fearing persons and some are competent too. In view of the current socio-economic problems in the country effective action should be taken to find similar people for the middle and lower ranking government positions also.

Nevertheless the people would like to see what the Commerce Ministry's tagging will bring in its wake. It has become apparent that the government's influence in maintaining economic order is slight to almost nonexistent.

* Report on Spreading Strikes at Universities

94LA0168A Stockholm NAMEH-YE MARDOM in Persian 12 Apr 94 p 4

[Text] Concurrent with the unprecedented intensification of the economic and social crisis in the country and increasing mass protests by an exasperated public, reports have been received of the spread of student strikes.

Following the student strike at Martyr Beheshti University in Tehran (formerly the National University), which began as a strike by women students against the unworkable situation at the student dormitories and quickly spread throughout the university, the strike continued for a week with a demand for the firing of the university management.

Based on this report, whose details are still unclear, 500 accounting students at Tehran's 'Alameh Tabataba'i University staged a strike on 7 and 8 Esfand last year [26-27 February 1994] demanding the firing of the university president. Likewise, officials at Qom's Fatemieh University closed the academic term in the face of an extensive student strike against this university's excessive tuition increase.

The leaders of the regime of the "vice regency of the chief jurisconsult," who remember well the experience of the student strikes of the years 1355-56 [21 March 1976-20 March 1978] and their connection with a mass movement during the Bahman [21 January-19 February] revolution, have undertaken a terrified search for a solution, believing that by "dealing" with some of the class demands of the students they will prevent the student movement from spreading and becoming a national political movement. In this regard, in a note in the budget passed for 1373 [21 March 1994-20 March 1995], the Majles has required the Central Bank to "provide the relevant universities with 10 billion tumans through the banking system in the form of interest-free or participatory loans and other devices to complete and build student dormitories."

Pakistan

Prime Minister Bhutto Outlines New Taxes

BK0306141494 Karachi DAWN in English 30 May 94 p 1,16

[Text] Islamabad, May 29: Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has said that the government will impose new taxes of about Rs 15 billion in the forthcoming budget.

Speaking at a Press conference in her chamber on Sunday, Ms Bhutto said the forthcoming budget would be a realistic one, but said the government would have to impose taxes owing to the ill- conceived policies and economic mismanagement of the previous government.

She said the budget would be tough because of variety of reasons. She pointed out that salaries had not been increased for the last three years and the government would have to take budgetary measures to increase salaries and provide relief to the people.

Dilating on the country's economic situation she said the yawning gap between the income and expenditures was not because of the present people's government. She pointed out that loans taken by the previous government of Nawaz Sharif exceeded the sun of loans taken by all the governments since 1947.

"The government had the option either to meet the budget deficit through more borrowings or imposing taxes," she said. She said the people's government while departing from the policies of previous governments decided to take a tough decision of introducing new taxes and help recover the ailing economy.

She claimed that the budget deficit during the previous Nawaz government rose from 6 per cent of GDP to over 8 per cent of GDP. It is likely to cross 9 per cent of the GDP in the coming June, she said. The present government has arrested the increasing deficit and was taking every possible step to bring it back to 6 per cent, she added.

The previous government, she maintained, spent over 80 million dollars on the yellow cab scheme and stopped the Hub power project which was initiated in the previous PPP government. She said it resulted in severe energy crisis in the country which again reflected on the country's production and further aggravation of economic situation.

Giving yet another reason for the government decision to impose taxes, she said the government was introducing structural reforms and tariffs. She pointed out that tariffs had already been brought down from 150 per cent to 100 per cent and intended to further reduce these. The shortfall because of the reduction in tariffs should also have to make up from other taxes, she added.

However, she said the decrease in the tariffs would help accelerate pace of industrialisation in the country, which would not only provide employment but also improve the overall economic situation.

Expressing determination to eliminate unemployment from the country, she said "we do not want to betray the people or want to buy time."

I do not believe in making cosmetic changes," she said.

Responding to a question about general sales tax in context with the Afghan transit facility, she said the government was fully alive of the situation and would certainly address to the problem. She agreed that Afghan transit facility was being abused and in the present situation without reviewing the Afghan transit facility imposition of general sales tax would strengthen the black economy. She, however, refused to disclose the details of measures the government intended to take in this behalf, and said the government wanted to force the black economy to join into the mainstream economy.

Further criticising the policies of previous government she said they cut the budget of education women development, energy and other important social sectors just for the sake of laying a lavish motorway.

Enumerating the steps taken by the present government during the past six months, she said it was highly unjustified to say that we had taken no steps for the socioeconomic uplift of the people.

"We introduced agriculture tax, enacted anti-drug laws, set up women police station, launched anti-polio and population planning campaign," she said while adding that the economic measures taken by the present government would bear fruit before the next elections.

Replying to another question about the increase in the ghee prices, she said she had already issued directives to all the provincial chief secretaries to launch anti-hoarders campaign. She said the ghee prices were increased because of the slackness of provincial administrations and not because of the government.

She pointed out that the Ghee Corporation of Pakistan was marketing ghee at much less prices than private ghee

units. She said the government was hiring a consultancy firm to suggest measures for checking monopoly of the private sector and regulate prices.

Editorial Alleges U.S. Envoy Interference in NWFP

BK0406111694 Karachi NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 2 Jun 94 p 10

[Editorial: "The U.S. Ambassador and the Change of Government in North-West Frontier Province"]

[Text] According to a British magazine, John C. Monjo, the U.S. ambassador to Pakistan, has played an important role in the change of government in North-West Frontier Province [NWFP] and the appointment of Aftab Ahmad Khan Sherpao as chief minister. He also facilitated Sherpao's appointment by persuading Mir Afzal Khan and three other provincial assembly members to support Sherpao. The haste and bad taste displayed by the federal government in replacing the Muslim League government in NWFP and the maneuvers it adopted to tame Mir Afzal Khan indicate that something must have been wrong there. But no one could guess that the U.S. ambassador, who has long been like a viceroy in Pakistan, was also involved.

Reports kept circulating in the past that the U.S. Government and its ambassador played a very important role in the transfer of power in 1988. The country was suffering political instability then. It was suspected that (?messages) were being sought from Washington. Nevertheless, the U.S. interest was then believed to have been confined to major issues and federal government affairs only. The latest report, however, indicates that the provincial governments also are now at the mercy of the U.S. ambassador. A question may be asked about the way the U.S. ambassador established contacts with Mir Afzal Khan via Manzur Wattoo and convinced him to support Sherpao? How can we complain about the U.S. ambassador or any other person if our politicians are dependent on the advice of others on issues relating to national politics and the country's democracy, and are devoid of the capacity to decide themselves?

In view of the U.S. attempt to shape Afghan affairs according to its own perception, the government should clarify whether it wants to push the U.S. policy through the NWFP government or it intends to promote and protect national policies and interests. The federal government should also explain what price it has paid or will pay in the future for the political benefit it is accruing through the U.S. ambassador. The ambassador himself should also clarify whether he interfered in the affairs of NWFP, and if he did then in what capacity.

Foreign Office Sets Up Separate Kashmir Directorate

BK0406080694 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 3 Jun 94

[Text] A separate Kashmir Directorate has been set up in the Foreign Office to highlight the Kashmir issue worldwide. A spokesman of the Pakistan People's Party [PPP] said in Islamabad that the step has been taken on the prime minister's directive. He said the prime minister would like to expose the brutal atrocities carried out by Indian forces in occupied Kashmir, adding that she attaches significant importance to the Kashmir issue whenever she pays a visit abroad. The PPP spokesman said the government after careful consideration has formulated a strategy to secure international support for its just stand on Kashmir. He expressed the hope that its efforts will get a considerable boost as a result of Ms. Bhutto's upcoming visits to the United States and Russia.

Editorial Cautions Against Indian 'Designs'

BK0306160494 Karachi NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 1 Jun 94 p 10

[Editorial: "India's Aggressive Designs and our Responsibility"]

[Text] According to the report of a U.S. Senate committee, the Central Intelligence Agency is confident that hydrogen bombs are being manufactured in the Bhaba Atomic Research Center in Bombay. By conducting a nuclear test in 1974, India proved its nuclear capability. According to the deposition of former CIA chief William Casey, India's nuclear program has advanced to a dangerous level and India has enough enriched uranium to make 60 to 80 atom bombs. For quite some time, international agencies have been giving hints about India's hydrogen bombs, and now the U.S. Senate report has endorsed them, thereby exposing India's designs. The other day, there was also a reference in the press about India's plans to manufacture Surya missiles. These will be of intercontinental ballistic missile type and have a capacity to hit a target up to 12,000 kms. Prior to this, India had also manufactured the medium-range Prithvi missile, whose final test preparations are nearing completion at Chandipur in Orissa. The other missiles manufactured by India include the Agni, Trishul, and Nag. India began a long-range missile program only to launch nuclear weapons, and it is surprising that the Cold War era has ended and the contemporary superpowers like Russia and the United States have also agreed to limit their missile programs. On the other side, even now, there is pressue from international monetary agencies to make considerable cuts in defense spending and give priority to the welfare of people rather than spending money on weapons. The irony is that India does not even care for international pressure. India did not even take the American message on the nuclear issue into consideration, which was acknowledged by President Clinton during his joint press conference with Narasimha Rao. It has made the acquisition of arms for all branches of its

land, air, and naval forces a routine thing. India's blue water navy, which contains aircraft carriers and nuclear submarines, is 10 times larger than that of Pakistan. The Indian Air Force has sophisticated MiG-29 aircraft. In view of its size, the Indian Army is larger than those of all its small neighbors put together. In fact, India does not face any threat to its national security from any quarter. Until now, India took the lead in provoking its small and large neighbors. Pakistan became the target of Indian aggression three times in 1948, 1965, and 1971, and even now the target of all its preparations will only be Pakistan. India's aspirations and efforts are to accomplish the dream of Greater India and do away with the partition of mother India. Only Pakistan is an obstacle in the accomplishment of these despicable designs, and India can become a threat on our border at any time. India was constrained to reach an understanding with China. First, it is not possible for India to subdue China and second, it has realized that China does not have aggressive designs against any of its neighbors. Hence, the Indian forces, which were earlier deployed along the borders with China, have been moved and are now being deployed along the borders of Sindh, Punjab, and Kashmir. India has threatened several times that the continuing freedom movement in Kashmir can flare up into a "limited war". During his visit to the United States, President Leghari also spoke about the threat of a nuclear war. On the other side, the international powers have also identified the threat of a nuclear war in the subcontinent. It is definite that India may commit aggression in the future as it did in the past. To counter the situation, it is first the responsibility of Pakistan to not give up its policy of deterrence, and second, to make its defense impregnable. It is better to create political stability, as India will not have the guts to indulge in conflict. The global powers should also try to be aware of India's designs and not allow it to destroy peace in the region.

Editorial Rejects Restriction on Nuclear Program

BK0306151694 Lahore JANG in Urdu 1 Jun 94 p 3

[Editorial: "The Nuclear Weapon, Indian Designs and the U.S. Strategy"]

[Text] The United States—the world's sole superpower—claims to be the greatest champion of nuclear nonproliferation. Assigning itself the role of world watchman, it has adopted a very strong policy to check nuclear proliferation in Korea, South Asia, and the Middle East. Reports, however, come in occasionally which make it easy for anyone to understand that the U.S. policy on the nuclear nonproliferation issue is to a great extent discriminatory and subservient to its own specific considerations. According to the latest report released in the United States, which was prepared in accordance with the instructions of the upper house of the Congress, the United States since 1988 gave permission for 1,500 export consignments which could be used for the manufacture of nuclear weapons. They included very complicated high-speed computers, lasers, furnaces, and machine parts. At least half of these 1,500 export consignments were destined to companies and organizations which were involved with and working for the Israeli nuclear weapon program. During this period, 33 items were exported to India which could be used for the manufacture of nuclear weapons. All of these export items were sent to the Bhabha Atomic Research Center in Bombay where, according to the CIA, India is now engaged in producing a hydrogen bomb. The report says that a very limited quantity of exports also was made available to Brazil, Argentina, Iraq, South Africa, Iran, and Pakistan, but it was very negligible compared to what was supplied to Israel and India. Israel, in particular, was supplied 238 computers which were very useful in the manufacture of nuclear weapons.

It is not at all difficult to understand from this report that the U.S. policy of pressure on the nuclear weapons issue is not only unfair and inequitable, but also aimed at helping the countries of its choice with their nuclear programs. It is unfortunate that despite pursuing such a policy, the United States is claiming that it is treating all countries in a nondiscriminatory manner on the nuclear nonproliferation issue. With direct U.S. help, Israel has become so advanced in the manufacture of nuclear weapons and missiles that if, God forbid, a situation occurs when it is forced to display and use its weapons then the world will remained stunned to see the height of advancement Israel has achieved in the production of nuclear weapons. Similarly, India, with the U.S. help and with its own resources has developed its nuclear program, turning itself into a significant nuclear power. Also, it is fast accelerating its missile program.

India had temporarily halted its Prithvi missile test during Prime Minister Narasimha Rao's recent visit to the United States. Preparations, however, are under way now to resume the tests and Indian scientists have reached the test venue in Orissa. It has also been reported that these missiles will be deployed along Pakistan's border adjoining Indian Punjab and Rajasthan states. Later, they will be extended to the state of Jammu and Kashmir.

The United States is fully aware of India's nuclear program and its implications. During his recent visit to the United States, the Indian prime minister had made it clear that India was not ready to accept any U.S. suggestion about its nuclear program. The Indian stand now is that it is not ready to accept any restriction on its nuclear program even if Pakistan signs the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty unilaterally and India will accept a restriction only when a program to abolish the nuclear weapon is implemented on a global basis. It is not realistic if, after knowing the Indian stand, the United States still feels that it can succeed in checking nuclear proliferation. Given this situation, there is no justification for the United States to exert any pressure on Pakistan.

In view of the U.S. and Indian attitude, a school of thought in Pakistan is suggesting that we should also declare that we are not prepared to accept any restriction

even if India accepts one on its nuclear program. If the U.S. and Indian attitude remains as it is now, then a time will come when it will not be possible to prevent this school of thought in Pakistan from becoming more powerful and popular. The U.S. Government now is realistic to the extent that it is not asking Pakistan to unilaterally roll back its nuclear program. Implementing the Pressler Amendment against us, however, is totally unjustified. In view of Indian designs and the policy of the United States itself, the United States has no justification for putting pressure on Pakistan. The whole nation supports the Government of Pakistan's stand that we will not accept any unilateral restriction on our nuclear program.

Officials Claim Economy Showing 'Signs of Recovery'

BK0606150794 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 6 Jun 94

[Text] The national economy has started showing signs of recovery because of the effective economic management by the present government. This was stated by the federal minister for information and broadcasting, Mr. Khalid Ahmad Khan Kharal, and the information secretary of Pakistan People's Party, Mr. Salman Taseer, in a joint news conference in Islamabad today. They said that the size of the stock exchange has been doubled during the last eight months by the infusion of $700 million by foreign investors, which shows the confidence of the international community in the macroeconomic stability of the country.

Mr. Khalid Ahmad Khan Kharal said the government has taken various measures to augment resources and reduce its expenditure considerably. He said the expenditure was curtailed by dropping uneconomical schemes, reducing size of the federal government expenditure, freezing of supplementary grants, and imposing discipline on provincial finances. He said revenues have registered an increase by 16.6 percent during July-March 1993-94 over the corresponding period last year by plugging loopholes, launching successful recovery campaigns, and improving administrative capacity of the CDR's [expansion unknown]. He said the deficit financing has also been reduced to rupees 10.34 billion against rupees 61.87 billion during the corresponding period last year. He said these measures have activated the economy and the positive results are visible in the key sectors and segment of the economy like GDP growth rate, balance of payments, and prices of essential commodities. The minister said in a short period the government has succeeded in bringing about macroeconomic stability in the financial and fiscal sectors and has also arrested declining trends in the domestic production. The government has also initiated programs of far-reaching improvements in the areas of energy, physical infrastructure, and social services so that the structural gap which has persisted for long in these sectors could be plugged.

Indigenous Patrol Craft Incorporated Into Navy

BK0606143194 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 6 Jun 94

[Text] At a ceremony in Karachi, the country's indigenously built warship PNS [Pakistan Naval Ship] Larkana was inducted in the Pakistan Navy fleet today. Speaking on the occasion, the chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Saeed M. Khan, said the building of PNS Larkana at Pakistan Navy Dockyard is a small beginning, but not an ordinary achievement. The warship has been designed and built by the engineers, architects, and workers of Pakistan Navy. Paying compliments to naval personnel, the naval chief said the induction of the homemade warship is a beginning of a long journey in raising a sound infrastructure of the Pakistan Navy.

The chief of Naval Dockyard explained the overall technical and professional capabilities of PNS Larkana. Later, the chief of the Naval Staff formally inducted the warship PNS Larkana in the Pakistan Navy.

The building of the patrol craft indigenously by Pakistan Navy is the first step toward self-reliance of designing and building of warships in the country. The ship has a speed of 24 knots per hour with three mounted antiaircraft guns. The ship is also equipped with depth charge capabilities which could be used for antisubmarine operations.

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